Gc
929.2
F637h
1625021

M. D

REYNOLDS HISTORICAL
GENEALOGY COLLECTION

GC

ALLEN COUNTY PUBLIC LIBRARY

3 1833 01239 0453

Digitized by the Internet Archive
in 2018

https://archive.org/details/robertfletcherof00holm

ROBERT FLETCHER

of Concord, Massachusetts Bay, 1637

A Study of his Life and Family

from the

New England Records

Compiled for

HENRY FLETCHER ESQUIRE

of

New York City

by

Winifred Lovering Holman S.B.
Life Member
New England Historic-Genealogical Society
and member
Long Island Historical Society
Maryland Historical Society
Virginia Historical Society
Utah Historical Society

1930

1625021

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Account of Robert Fletcher.....page 1

Brief Notes on William Hartwell.....page 20

Account of Grissell Fletcher.....page 22

Account of Francis Fletcher.....page 27

Account of Ensign William Fletcher.....page 38

Account of Sergeant Samuel Fletcher.....page 53

Miscellaneous Notes on Concord and Chelmsford Fletchers.....page 61

Brief Notes on some William Fletchers of Chelmsford.....page 63
- Lieutenant William Fletcher.....page 65
- Sergeant William Fletcher.....page 69
- Lieutenant William Fletcher.....page 71
- William Fletcher.....page 75
- Captain Amos Fletcher.....page 77

FLETCHER LINEAGE

ROBERT FLETCHER

FRANCIS FLETCHER — ELIZABETH WHEELER

JOSEPH FLETCHER — MARY DUDLEY

SAMUEL FLETCHER — ABIGAIL HUBBARD

LIEUTENANT EBENEZER FLETCHER — ELIZABETH FLETCHER

CAPTAIN JOEL FLETCHER — MARY (HAINES) BRACKETT

JOEL FLETCHER — ZERVIAH TOWNSEND MEIGS

GEORGE HARLEY FLETCHER — IDA SHARP

HENRY FLETCHER

FLETCHER LINEAGE II

ROBERT FLETCHER

FRANCIS FLETCHER — ELIZABETH WHEELER

HEZEKIAH FLETCHER — MARY WOOD

ELIZABETH FLETCHER

FOREWORD

In regard to the English origin of Robert Fletcher: all the available published English records such as parish registers, records of various English Record Societies, Somerby's Manuscript Material, were searched, and also some original research undertaken in England, in an effort to place Robert Fletcher in England. All references to the name were noted prior to 1640. This search was made at considerable expense and all to no avail.

The name of Fletcher was found to be common in Yorkshire, Lancashire, Cheshire, Staffordshire, London (all parts of England being represented there), and fairly common in Worcestershire, Norfolk, and Derby. It is apparently a name common to the Midlands, and not at all a south or west of England name.

Rev. Elijah[6] Fletcher (1746-1786) is said to have been the first member of the family to make an attempt to gather the family records. He believed that Robert Fletcher came from Yorkshire, and as he lived at a time when Robert's great-grandchildren were still living, this idea is worthy of notice. Elijah's own grandfather, Captain Joseph[4] Fletcher (1689-after 1772), was a great-grandson of Robert Fletcher the immigrant.

Incidentally the published parish registers were also searched for the name of Hartwell. This name was found to be most plentiful in London and Middlesex, and was also found to some extent in Warwickshire.

ROBERT FLETCHER

1. ROBERT FLETCHER, the immigrant, founder of the Concord family of the name, was probably born in England, about 1592, and died in Concord, Middlesex County, Mass., 3 Apr. 1677, over eighty years of age. His will dated 1672, gives his age then, as about four score years. The name of his wife, and the mother of his children is unknown. It is possible that her name was Sarah, as each one of his sons is supposed to have had a daughter of that name; she was living 4 Feb. 1672, and had deceased, by 12 May 1677.

Nothing authentic is known of the English origin of Robert Fletcher, nor is there apparently any hint as to his English home in any of the published records. He was in Concord by 1637, and may have been there by 1636 when the town was first established.

Besides Robert Fletcher of Concord 1637, there were a number of other early settlers of the name in New England by 1660, but none of them was apparently even remotely connected with Robert. There was Edward Fletcher of Boston here by 1640; Henry Fletcher of Reading here by 1660; Moses Fletcher who died in 1620 in Plymouth; Roger Fletcher, who came from London, and was in Boston in 1646; and Joseph Fletcher an important man of Salisbury; all these having settled in the Colony of Massachusetts Bay. Then there was John Fletcher of Wethersfield, Conn., who died in 1662; John Fletcher, a physician of Portsmouth, N.H.*; the Rev. Seth, or Beeth, Fletcher of Saco, Me., and his son Pendleton also of that town, here very

---

* His Bible Record will be published soon in the New England Historical and Genealogical Register.

early; and a probable relation of theirs, William Fletcher also of Saco, who died there in 1668.

We are not surprised to find so many early immigrants of the name to New England, for the name at that time in England was not uncommon. With the exception of Henry Fletcher of Reading, our Robert was the only Fletcher in Middlesex County. There is no evidence that he lived anywhere but in Concord, and it is the compiler's opinion that he probably came there directly from England, between 1635 and 1637.

Concord, a small town, some twenty miles northwest of Boston, was the first town settled in New England above tide water, and was described as being "away up in the woods" when, 2 Sept. 1635, the plantation at Musketaquid was granted as the town of Concord, by the General Court of Massachusetts Bay. This grant was made to Rev. Peter Bulkely and Major Simon Willard with twelve families under their care. In October of that same year, Rev. John Jones with some settlers arrived in Boston, destined for the new plantation. Unfortunately the original petition and deed are lost. Other early settlers came the next year, among them a Mr. Spencer, Richard Rice, Hon. Thomas Flint, William Wood, and others. Hence by the time the church was organized, 5 July 1636, there was quite a little colony. The church records prior to 1736 are missing, and so this valuable source of data is closed to us.

Our first mention of Robert Fletcher is contained in the Massachusetts Bay Records, volume one, page 206; Court held at Newtown [Cambridge], 2-9-1637 [2 Nov. 1637], "Rob^rt Fletcher was chosen & sworne constable of Concord."

In order to be chosen constable, it would seem that a man would have to be fairly well known to his towns people and to the Court, and this seems rather conclusive evidence that Robert was amongst the earliest settlers in Concord, perhaps coming with Bulkely and Willard in September 1635. Bulkely is supposed to have come from Woodhill, in Bedfordshire, and Willard from Kent.

Two years later we get the next mention of Robert Fletcher, the record being recorded in both the Court of Assistants, and the records of the Colony, under date of 4 June 1639, when " Rob^r^t Fletcher was discharged, being discharged, being not found faulty." What the charge was is not given in either source. (Massachusetts Bay Colony Records, 1:267.)

Shattuck states that 5 June 1644, Robert Fletcher and others petitioned the honored Court for clemency in regard to an action concerning their brother Mr. Ambrose Martin. Martin was of course a "church brother" and the case an ecclesiastical one. Where Shattuck found this case is not given, nor can it be found in any of the sources that the compiler has covered.

The "History of the Town of Concord, Middlesex County, Massachusetts, From Its Earliest Settlement to 1832," etc., by Lemuel Shattuck, was written nearly a hundred years ago, and it is very probable that at that time he covered material that is now no longer extant. For instance the following petition which is of the greatest interest cannot be found in the Middlesex Court Files, nor in the Massachusetts Archives. Shattuck explains that in 1644, a number of the Concord inhabitants went with Rev. John Jones to Connecticut, leaving the town greatly depopulated, so

much so, that those remaining asked the General Court to abate their taxes. Inasmuch as Robert Fletcher was one of those signing the petition, hence one of those who was not in sympathy with Jones and his followers, it seems quite certain that he did not come over in October 1635 with the said Jones party. This petition reads:

" To the Wor:ll Governor, Deputy Governor, with the rest of the Assistants and Deputies of the Court now assembled. The humble petition of the inhabitants of Concord sheweth:

" That whereas we have lived most of us at Concord since our coming over into these parts, and are not conscious unto ourselves that we have been grosly negligent to imploy that talent God hath put into our hands to our best understanding; Neither have wee found any special hand of God gone out against us, only the povertie and meanneese of the place we live in not answering the labour bestowed on it, together with the badness and weetnes of the meadowes, hath consumed most of the estates of those who have hitherto borne the burden of charges against us, and therewith the bodily abilities of maney. This being soe eminent above what hath befallen other plantations, hath occasioned many at severall times to depart from us, and this last summer, in the end of it, a 7th or 8th part of the Towne went to the southward with Mr. Jones and many more resolved to goe after them, so that maney houses in the Towne stand voyd of Inhabitants, and more are likely to be; and we are confident that if conscience had not restrained, fearing the dissolution of the Towne by their removeall, very many had departed to one place or other where Providence should have hopefully promised a livelihood.

" This our condition we thought it our duty to informe you of, fearing least if more go from us we shall neither remayne as a congregation nor a towne, and then such as are most unwilling to depart, whiles there remayne any hopes of ordinance amongst us, will be enforced to leave the place, which if it should come to pass, wee desire this may testify on the behalf of such, it was not a mynd unsatisfyed with what was convenient, which occasioned them to depart, but meerly to attaine a subsistence for themselves and such as depend on them, and to enjoy ordinances. If it be sayd, wee may go to other places and meete with as many difficulties as here, experience herein satisfies us against many reasons. Such as hardly subsisted with us, and were none of the ablest amongst us, either for labour or ordering their occasions, have much thriven in other places they have removed unto. Our humble request is you would be pleased to consider how unable we are to beare with our brethren the common charges, the premises considered.

Richard Griffin	Robert Fletcher
Joseph Wheeler	Walter Edmonds
Timothy Wheeler	William Hunt
George Wheeler	William Wood
John Smedley	James Flood
Thomas Bateman	Joseph Middlebrooke

These in the name of the rest."

(Shattuck's "History of Concord")

This action was presented 14 May 1645 and is attested to by the proper authorities. It is endorsed, " We conceive the petitioners of Concord

should (in consideration of the reasons alledged in this petition) be considered in their rates; but how much, wee leave to those that are appoynted to assess the several towns when any levie is to be made." (ibid.)

There is a silence in the old records in regard to Robert for nearly ten years, then, 4 Sept. 1654, a letter of invitation was extended by the new plantation of Chelmsford to Rev. John Fiske of Wenham, under the hands of "Robt. Flecher, Tho: Adams, Wm. Fletcher, Wm. Butterock" in the name of the rest.*

Chelmsford, a town north of Concord, was officially established as a separate town, 29 May 1655, being known as the new plantation before this. It is evident that Robert was interested in this town, although he apparently lived with his son Francis Fletcher in Concord, the only son to remain in Concord.

About 1875, Thomas Bellows Wyman read through the Middlesex County Court Files to the end of 1673, and made note of the various persons mentioned in the original papers therein. These notes are now in the possession of the New England Historic-Genealogical Society, and although by no means without error, provide an index of these papers which are in themselves a veritable mine of information concerning the early settlers of Middlesex County.

From his notes we learn that 20 Nov. 1656, in a Concord venire, Robert Fletcher was named as a juryman. Also an undated paper, filed with the papers for that same year, presents a petition of the Concord inhabitants

---

* History of Chelmsford, published 1917, an excellent piece of work. No record of this invitation can be found in the Archives of Massachusetts.

about the building of two needed bridges in that town, among the signers appears the autograph of "Robert ffletcher." (Middlesex Court Files.)

Hudson's History of Concord, states that in 1653 a new town book was purchased by the town of Concord to supplant the old one, all the inhabitants being required to enter their holdings in the same, and that Francis Fletcher recorded his as being seventeen lots, 437 acres, in the eastern quarter of the town, Robert not recording his. [When the compiler examined the Town Records she did not find any such entry, in that year.]

2 Jan. 1657, Thomas Fox of Concord made his will, the two witnesses being Edward Bulkely and "Robert Fletcher" both signing their names. His estate was prized 23 Apr. 1658, by "Thomas Brookes his marke" and "Robert ffletcher his marke." The entire inventory etc. is written by one hand hence the use of the marks. (Middlesex Probate, 8397.)

The next month, 17 May 1658, a petition to the General Court asking the privilege of trade with the Indians was signed by thirty-three inhabitants of Cholmsford, among them being "William Fletcher," and"Roberd Flecher." This a copy and is written in one hand. (Massachusetts Archives, 119:19.)

Wyman notes that 14 Mar. 1660-61, the two jurors for Concord were Robert Fletcher and Ensign Joseph Theeler; and that 2 Apr. 1661, a petition was presented by Robert Fletcher of Concord "in the name of the rest" in regard to William Borden a brickmaker who had been warned out of town and had come back again "with that he calls his wife." (Wyman's Notes.)

Although the present earliest book of town records for Concord begins in 1653, there is only one mention of Robert's lands, viz: " 5 - 1 - 62

[5 Mar. 1662] The first division of Samuell Streaton . . . it fouer acars at Elme brooke hill Capt [name omitted] possesing too acers and Robert ffletcher possesing the other too." (Concord Town Records.)*

About this time nearly all the inhabitants entered their possessions in the Concord Records, but nowhere is there any mention of Robert's lands, even as a boundary. As his son, Francis, entered his lands in 1663, it is to be assumed that he had given his lands to his said son Francis by that year. Francis's land is mentioned again and again as a boundary.

7 Sept. 1664, a petition of Robert Fletcher and two others was filed in court concerning one Joseph Lamson, who had previously been complained of but who had been repentant of his mis-deeds, so that the signers state "we doe pase it by." (Middlesex Court Files.)

A Luke Fletcher of Concord died in 1665, intestate, and as Robert served as the administrator on the estate, it would seem logical to conclude that Luke was one of his sons.**

" An Inventory of the estat of Luke flecher Late of Concord deceased" was taken by Georg Wheeller and John hapgood, 30 May 1665, the personal estate being £41-18-9, no real estate being listed.

" June 20 1665. Robert fletcher appearing in Court is granted administration on the Estate of ye above named Luke fletcher deced." (Middlesex Probate, 7884.)

---

* The records from 1635 to 1696 are incomplete. The first book had been copied and some admirable person has cross-indexed it.

** There is of course the possibility that Luke was a brother of Robert.

Four years later Robert Fletcher was blind as the following petition to the Middlesex Court cites:

" To the Honoured Magistrates assembled in Court at Charlstown June. 15. 69:

The humble petition of Robert ffletcher Inhabitant of Concord:

Humbly Sheweth,

That wheras Joshua ffletcher (grand son unto yor petitioner) by reason of his sinfull miscarriage (which hath proved a Greife of heart, & matter of serious humiliation before the throne of grace to yor petitioner:) did Incurre the penalty of 20^{ll}, by sentence of the honoured Court held at Cambridge in the 2^{d} mon: 68: which penalty whether proportioned unto the demeritt, yor petitioner does in no wise Call into question, but does humbly acquiesce in; accounting it amongst the number of p^{r}cis favo^{rs} of God, afforded to his people in this Coll: that those whom hee has placed over them in Authority Civill, doe execute Justice & Jugut in the Gates of o^{r} Israell: becoming a terror to Evill doers, as a praise & Encouragnt to them that doe well.

Yet as being not altogether without hope, but that there may yet bee Room found for mitigation of the forementioned sentence: Yo^{r} humble petitioner doth addresse himselfe unto yor Worships for that end, Solemly pfessing that if hee thought it either displeasing unto god, or offensive unto yor worships, hee would not at All have Mooved hence:

But yor humble petitioner Considering; As, the condition of his son William (the person obliged for the payment of the forementioned sume) In Regard of the difficulty of disbursing such a sume, at such a juncture of time,

wherin the labour of the husbandman for some years hath in a great measure failed: Especially other occasions (chiefly in respect of the aforesaid Joshua's settlement) pressing him. For also the Condition of yor petitioner (engaged to his son Willm (if there bee no abatemt of the aforesaid penalty) to bee helpfull to him therin) whom God hath been pleased to exercise with the bereavemt of his sight; & of his yokefellow little less then bereaved in the same kind; & both of them labouring under the infirmityes of old age, wherby, they are incapacitated to doe that, which may bee for their supply as to temp^{ll}, & not knowing what dependance, God may in his providence cast them to have, upon their children:
As also not forgetting some measure of Good effect, by the sentence of the hon^{r}d Court, which yor petitioner hopeth is wrought upon his Grandson, the aforesaid Joshua, of whom yor petitioner heareth better things than formerly: (which yor petitioner hopeth may be an Inducemt to yor worships to Consider of his humble Motion) These Considerations in cheife mooving yor petitioner is emboldened to have recourse to yor worships, (of whose willingnesse to shew mercy, as well as Conscience of duty to inflict penalty, hee doubteth not) for at Least an Alleviation & mitigation of the aforesaid penalty which if God Shall direct yor hearts unto, yor petitioner & His, will have abundant Cause to acknowledge yor worships Lenity, & yor poor Aged petitioner, humbly to blesse God for enclining yor hearts to answer his request; & shall Continue to pray unto the God of all grace, & who putteth a divinne sentence into the Lipps, for his benediction upon All yor Worships Civil Administrations.

Robert ffletcher."

(Middlesex Court Files.)

The above petition is of much interest for not only does it mention the son William, and the grandson Joshua, but we also learn that Robert was aged and blind, and that his wife also alive at the time, was likewise aged and infirm. The charge etc., against Joshua will be given briefly in the account of his father, William[2] Fletcher.

It seems fitting here to call attention to some errors in Wyman's Notes, which have caused much speculation by various searchers and genealogists, but which no one apparently has ever tried to verify. This the compiler has done, and by recourse to the original Court papers, has settled the matter for all time.

Wyman states that 5 Apr. 1653, Thomas Blanchard appears in Court with a paper which mentions Hannah Blanchard, the widow of my son Thomas, her two children, Marie and Sarah, who had become the wife of Richard Gardiner etc. Another paper filed with this one, contained a list of debts that Blanchard's son did owe various men, among them "my father Goodman Fletcher." (Wyman's Notes, 1:24½.) From this it would appear that the said Hannah was a daughter of Robert Fletcher, married first Thomas Blanchard of Charlestown, Mass., who died in February 1651, and who married secondly, 18 Oct. 1651, Richard Gardiner of Woburn.*

The original papers are to be found in the Court Files, for county court proceedings prior to 1692 are not at the Registry of Probate. The inventory of Thomas Blanchard Jr.'s estate, Thomas Blanchard Sr.'s petition, and the list of debts mentioned by Wyman, may be noted in which we see that the items read:

---

* The compiler examined everything possible re Blanchard and Gardiner.

" To my Father 04-01-00

To Goodman Parker 01-19-00

To Goodman Fletcher 01-00-00"

(Middlesex Court Files.)

Hence Wyman in reading this, or in transcribing his own notes, omitted the Parker item, and noted "To my Father Goodman Fletcher." Hannah was not a daughter of Goodman Robert Fletcher, just who she was is not known.

Again, Wyman gives in his Notes under date of 27 Apr. 1672, that the testimony of George Broughton aged 28, and that of Jerusha Fletcher aged 18, was given in Court, in regard to a case of inquest concerning Zechariah Smith, said Smith being evidently a bastard child by the daughter of Richard Sawtell. Again searchers have tried to explain who this Jerusha Fletcher born in 1654 was.

An examination of the original papers soon proved that Wyman either misread the original, or misread his own notes, for the young lady was not a Fletcher but a Jerusha Hitchcoke. (Middlesex Court Files.)

Wyman made another error in regard to Robert's daughter Grissell which will be taken up under account.

Wyman's Notes end with the year 1673, so the compiler read through all the original papers until the year 1678, a matter which took much time, to be sure that there was no further mention of Robert and his family, Robert died in April 1677.

There is no mention of Robert Fletcher in the Middlesex County Deeds, in the Supreme Court Records* and in other sources covered, both printed and

---

* In a Dunstable, Mass., Record the land of Robert Fletcher is mentioned, nothing further given, and no date. (Supreme Court Records. 26072.)

manuscript records, of any further importance, except of course the settlement of his estate and his will a copy of which follows.

He and his wife died so early that it is doubtful if gravestones in our sense of the term were erected to their memory, and the field stones customary at the time which marked their graves, perhaps on Francis's land in Concord, are gone with the ages.

A copy of the original will and inventory follows:

" the 4th of february 1672

These may Certyfie Whom it may Concern that I Robert flecher of Concord in the County of midelsex in the Government of the maschusets Jurisdiction in New england being about fouerscor years of adge: yet through the high favor of almighty God I have my undestanding in a Competent measure althoug I find much Weakness in my body: doe therefore declare this to bee my last Will and Testament - I doe heerby acknowled that God to bee my God who made the World by the Word of his power Who out of his unspeakabell Goodnes hath Given to mee my life and breath with the suport of it hetherto - I also beleve in and Roull myselfe upon Jesus Christ his only sonn that was Given to bee a propitiation for my sinn and perfectly to fulfill the Righteouse law of God for mee that soe I might obtain boldnes att the throne of Gracce When hee shalbee admired of all his saints - Who out of his infinite love accordinge to his promise hath sent the spirit to sealle unto mee my adoption and fellowship both with the father and Himself in the full asurance Whereof I doe heeby Resign my soull into the hands of that God that Gave it mee - as likwise my body to the earth from Whence it Was taken: to bee decently buryied by my three sonns and

the expence thearof to be deducted out of my estate - and for the Rest of my estate that the lord hath lent mee Which I have not formerly disposed of I do hearby declare - that it is my Will that my sonn francis and his loving and loved Wife doe take the speciall Care of my loving Wife for long as the lord shall Continue her and them in the land of the living as formerly - and in Case shee shall stand in neede or see Cause to make use of any part of this estat hearafter to be mentioned for her own Comfort that shee shal hearby have lawfull power soe to doe and after her decease my Will is that it may be devided as followeth videlicet - into two equall partts and my Will is that my sonns William and samuell may have on of the parts equally devided betwixt them and that my sonn francis shell have the other part Who I do hearby appoint to bee my Wholl executor to this my last Will utterly Revoaking all other former Wills - and I doe appoint for overseers to this my Will my Trusty and lovinge frends deacon Robert miriam deacon luke potter of Concord ---------- I have hearunto anexed a sedull [schedule] of What is my estate according to my present Remembrance in Witnese theerof I have set to my hand and seale the day and yeare above Written

signd and sealed in the presenc of us the mark of

John hoare Robert flecher"

Nathaniell How [Stow?] attested upon oath in Court

June 19 77 as attest

12 may 1677.

an Inventory and prisall of the Bastat of Robert fletcher deceased breath [brought] in befors us whose names are under written as

followeth:

It in wearing paril as Clothes - 003 - 07 -0

It bedsteed an and beding ------- 04 - 08 -0

It in debtes un paid ---------- 20 - 18 -6

28 - 13 -6

It disbrusments by his Son ffrancis ffletcher

at his mothers and fathers berirall

Cost him he saith ----------5[11] 0 - 0

Timothy Wheller

Robert Meriam

Luke Potter

Sworn by ffrancis fletcher

June 19 1677:: In Court as

attests.

J R Cl:"

Robert ffletcher

Invent, 1677

Ent. lib. 4. p. 249.

11. 12. 77.

F. D. R.

Vol. 4 - 266."

(Middlesex Probate, 7913.)

The Miscellaneous County Court Book* page 156, contains:

" An Inventory of the estate of Francis [sic should be Robert] Fletcher

---

* Through the efforts of Mary Lovering Holman the original county court papers prior to 1692 were examined in the Files and all Probate Records were copied about fifteen years ago in one large book known as the Miscellaneous County Court Book, said volume being now on file at the Probate Registry.

was p^{r}sented in Court & attested on oath by Fra: Fletcher," County Court 19 June 1677.

The following original paper is preserved in the Archives of the Harvard College Library:

" An agreemt made and agreed upon by the towne and Church of Concord concerning the Colledge att Cambridge, made Aug° 22° 1653° It is agreed by the company of the sayd towne and church, to give yearely the sume of five pounds for the use of the sayd Colledge to be leavyed upon the same towne after the same manner as the other rates are leavyed and to be payd in att or before the last of ye moneth of May. the sayd yearely sume of 5^{li} to continue for the space of seven yeares, and then to be ether renewed if it shall appeare that it may be improved for good, or otherwise we to be att libertye to doe according to the state of things then being. And for the terme of seven years aforesayd, the sayd towne of Concord doth desire that this order may be recorded in the court, and confirmed by the authorietye of the same. In wittnes of our consent hereto, we have hereto sett our handes the day and yeare above written.

Pet: Bulkeley
Simon Willard
Timothy wheler
Robert Meriam
Thomas T Brooks mark
Joseph wheller
Robert Fletcher
Georg wheler
James Blood
William Butterik
Nathaniel Ball
Humphrey Barat
Geo Meriam

Wililliam W woods mark

James Hosmer

John Smedly

Thomas wheeler

Luke Potter

Thomas Bateman

Geo: Heaward

Joshua Edmands

Baptist O Smedleyes mark

John Scorthford

William Hunt

Henry ffarwell

Michaell Wood

John Miles

Thomas ffoxe

Richard RR Rice his mark

Thomas Hinckeman

Will busse

John Jones

William Talier

Thomas Deene

Moses wheate

William under wood

Thomas Stow

Thomas Brown

Joseph Mirriam

Obadia wheeler

Thomas Dakeyn

Henry woodis."

[Copy of photostat from original, a copy also appears in the printed Colonial Society of Massachusetts, vol. xii:234, but the compiler does not agree with this printed copy.]

In regard to the matter of Rev. John Fiske's Note Book:

In the Proceedings of the Massachusetts Historical Society, 1897-1899, Second Series, Volume 12, pages 317-338, are extracts from Rev. John Fiske's Note Book, as communicated to said Society by Dr. Samuel A. Green, October 1898, page 322 gives the following:

" Upon 4 of 7th 1654 was dated a Lr under the hands of Robt. Fletcher, Tho: Adams, Wm. Fletcher, Wm. Buttereck in the na of the rest, engaged in the N. plantation at Chelmsford, whrin the pastor with the rest of this church at Wenham were Invited."

It was probably from this said source, the Proceedings, that the author of the History of Chelmsford, and the compilers of the printed vital records of Chelmsford (Essex Institute of Salem, Mass.) secured their data.

The Librarian of the Essex Institute has informed the compiler of this account that after the said Institute had published the Chelmsford Records, Dr. Green gave the original Note Book to the Institute and also gave a copy of the said Manuscript to them, and both the original Note Book and that copy are now in their possession. The reason that this old record was given to them was because Rev. John Fiske came originally to Salem, Essex County, Mass.

The letter to which the author of the Note Book refers has presumably long perished, so that it is doubtful if anyone now living has seen the original signature of Robert Fletcher upon it.

Children probably all born in England:

2. i. Grissell[2], b. about 1618; m. Thomas Jewell, Humphry Griggs, Henry Kibby, John Gurney, and John Burge.

3. ii. Francis, b. about 1620; m. Elizabeth Wheeler.

4. iii. William, b. about 1622; m. Rachel ---- and Lydia (----) Bates.

iv. Luke, b. about 1625, d. 21 May 1665, Concord, apparently unmarried. For the settlement of his estate see his father, Robert's account.

5. v. Samuel, b. in 1632; m. Margaret Hailstone, Hannah Foster, and Mary (Stow) Cotton.

probably others.

In 1689, the will of William Hartwell, another early settler of Concord, mentions "my Cossen ffrancis ffletcher." What was the relation of William Hartwell to Francis, son of Robert Fletcher?

At that time, the term of "cousin" was generally applied to a nephew or niece, but was sometimes used in a more remote sense as a sort of kinsman. Just how William Hartwell used the term is not known. We do know that William Hartwell's son, Samuel Hartwell, married Ruth Wheeler the daughter of George Wheeler, and that Francis Fletcher married her sister, Elizabeth Wheeler. Hence William Hartwell's daughter-in-law's brother-in-law was Francis Fletcher. One wonders if William Hartwell's sister married Robert Fletcher, of if his (that is Hartwell's) wife may have been a daughter of Robert Fletcher, or if William Hartwell's wife may have been a sister of Robert Fletcher, or if said William Hartwell's wife may have been a sister of Robert Fletcher's wife. There are so many possibilities. We must bear in mind one fact, that William Hartwell was of the generation of Robert Fletcher's children, and about the same age as his "Cossen ffrancis ffletcher."

William Hartwell born in England, about 1614, died in Concord, Mass., 12 Mar. 1689-90, aged seventy-six years. He lived in that part of Concord, now Lincoln, and the old house, part of which is claimed to have been built by him, is still in the possession of the Hartwell family. He was a Quartermaster, was made a Freeman in 1642, and was one of the petitioners for the Chelmsford grant. In his will he named his wife "Jazam" who survived him and died in Concord in 1695. Whether she was the mother of his children is not known, her name as it appears in his

will, and again in connection with the settlement of his estate is plainly "Jazan." Children (Hartwell), (1) William, born 1638; (2) John, born 23 Feb. 1641; (3) Mary, born 1643; (4) Samuel, born 28 Mar. 1645; (5) Martha, born 25 Apr. 1649; (6) Sarah; he is also said to have had sons, Jonathan and Nathaniel, but nothing is known of them.

2. GRISSELL[2] FLETCHER (Robert[1]), probably born in England, about 1618, died in Chelmsford, Mass., 9 July 1669. She married first, as a second wife, about 1640, Thomas Jewell of Braintree, Mass., who died in the Spring of 1654*; she married secondly, in Braintree, 1 Nov. 1655, Humphry Griggs, who died in 1657; she married thirdly, as a second wife, in Dorchester, Mass., 8 Oct. 1657, Henry Kibby, who died there, 10 Aug. 1661; she married fourthly, in Braintree, 12 Nov. 1661, By Peter Brackett, John Gurney Sr., who died in 1662-63; she married fifthly, in Chelmsford, 3 July 1667, John Burge, as his third wife, he dying in Dorchester, 22 Oct. 1678.

The following notes were made from an account of John Burge of Weymouth, Mass., compiled by Mary Lovering Holman for Mrs. Charles Pillsbury of Minneapolis, which Mrs. Pillsbury expects to publish in a book of general ancestry.

John Burge, an early settler of Weymouth, Mass., after his wife Rebecca's death 1 May 1661, removed to Chelmsford, where he married, 9 June 1662, Mary (Stearnes) Lerned, being called "late of Weymouth" in the marriage record. She was the widow of Isaac Lerned and died in Chelmsford, 8 Jan. 1663.** He married thirdly, in Chelmsford, 3 July 1667, Grissell (Fletcher) (Jewell) (Griggs) Gurney, daughter of Robert and sister of William Fletcher, she died there, 9 July 1669. He mar-

---

* See New England Historical and Genealogical Register, 22:43-46.

** Wyman notes that in 1663, the inventory of the estate belonging to Mary Lernot widdow now in the hands of John Burge of Chelmsford her surviving husband, was appraised by William Fletcher, Thomas Huntsman, and Jacob Parker. W.L.H.

ried fourthly, there, 6 Sept. 1677, Jane Cornell, wealthy widow of John Cornell, and removed to Dorchester to her home, where she died testate, 4 Apr. 1678, and he died testate, 22 Oct. 1678.

Mrs. Holman then follows her account with some biographical data concerning John Burge with his land records, estate, and list of children, continuing with a short account of each of his four wives. We are of course only interested in the third wife, Grissell Fletcher, hername also being spelled in the different records as Grizzell, Grisel, etc.

The third wife, Grissell, was the daughter of Robert Fletcher, an early settler of Concord, who had connections also with Chelmsford, she being married five times. She married first, about 1640, Thomas Jewell, who was given a grant of land in Braintree for three heads that year, she being a second wife, as Jewell had had an eldest son by a first wife, namely, Thomas Jewell Jr. By him she had four children. Thomas Jewell made his will, 10 Apr. 1654, proved 21 July 1654, in which he gave, "all ye estate to my wife to her as long as she is a widdow if she mary then to devide it into three parts, two parts among my children, the third to be hirs, William Needom & Tho: ffoster to take care & oversight of Estate for my wife & children." He neglected to appoint an executor, so the administration of his estate was granted to Grisell Jewell, his late wife, 21 July 1654. (New England Historical and Genealogical Register, 5:304.) Filed with this is the arrangement of Humphry Griggs of Braintree, "who with Gods leave is Buddenly to mary the Relict of Thomas Jewell," to take the possession of the estate of Jewell and have the use of it, paying to the daughters at eighteen and the sons at

twenty-one. (ibid.)

Grissell (Fletcher) Jewell then married as her second husband, in Braintree, 1 Nov. 1655, Humphry Griggs, and was appointed the administratrix on his estate, 18 Aug. 1657, having been his wife less than two years. There is no record of any children by this marriage.

She next married, as her third husband, and as his second wife, in Dorchester, 8 Oct. 1657, Henry Kibby, whose first wife, Rachel, had deceased there, 16 July 1657. Henry Kibby then died 10 Aug. 1661, leaving her again a widow, and the mother of a son by him, Sherebiah Kibby, born in Dorchester, 2 Dec. 1659, of whom more later.

Two months later, 12 Nov. 1661, she was married by Peter Brackett of Braintree, to her fourth husband, John Gurney Sr., a tailor of that place, who died in 1662-63, his inventory being filed, 16 Mar. 1663. She apparently had no children by Gurney.

With her various dower rights in her four deceased husbands' estates, she was probably a fairly prosperous widow, when she married, as her fifth husband, and his third wife, in Chelmsford, 3 July 1667, John Burge. There were no children by this marriage. Two years later, 9 July 1669, she died in Chelmsford, having married five times, and having had four children by her first husband, and one child, by her third husband.

Mrs. Holman gives as references to the above data, Savage; Braintree, Dorchester, Chelmsford, and Weymouth Vital Records; Suffolk Deeds, Probate, and Returns; Middlesex Deeds and Probate; History of Weymouth; and other sources.

Now the Fletcher Genealogy, published many years ago, gives the follow-

ing data in which our Grissell is called Cary:

" Motion to Court by William Fletcher of Chelmsford his sister Cary on her deathbed desired him & her husband to take care of her children. Willing to be engaged for the child Sherebiah Kibby."

This was evidently taken from Wyman's Notes, which states that, 28 Apr. 1671, on the motion of William Fletcher of Chelmsford his sister Cary on her death bed desired him and her husband to take Charge of her children willing to be engaged for the Child Sherebiah Kibby. (Wyman's Notes, 2:119.)

Of course Wyman misread the "Cary." Mrs. Holman thought the original was "Gurney." But a C.R.Fletcher states that he has a photograph of the original citation and that the name is plainly "Burge." Mr. Fletcher obtained his photograph from a descendant living near Boston who had in his possession, according to the said Mr. Fletcher, the original paper.

The Middlesex Court Files have been carefully examined for the period and the original paper is indeed missing. It should of course be returned as it is the legal property of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts. Unfortunately, the Middlesex Court Book in which a brief account of this action would appear, has been missing for years. The compiler has been unable to obtain the address of the present possessor of the missing document.

The "Annals of Mendon," page sixty one, verifies that it was the widow Gurney who was meant:

" To the Selectman of Mendon: Theas are to informe you by us William ffletcher and John Burge, both of us of the towne of Chelmsford, apointed

by the Corts order to be garians to the child of the widdow Gurney that was and Last of all wife to the abovesaid John Burge, she being of a sound understanding did will unto her son Joseph Juell all that A Commodation that there was there at the Towne of Mendon, Laid out and given unto her the said widdow Gurney, with all the appurtenances and priviledges In any wise apertaining or belonging thereunto, upon this condition that the said Joseph Juell do pay to Nathaniel Juell and Mercy Juell fifteen pounds and Sherrabya Keby tenn pounds. Our desire and request unto the Selectman of the said towne of Mendon that ye would Record the said a Commodation to Joseph Juell for his security

Witness our hands Chelmsford this 5 of the 4 month 1675

William Fletcher

John Burge."

Children:

By Thomas Jewell born in Braintree,

i. Joseph Jewell, b. 24 Apr. 1642.

ii. Nathaniel Jewell, b. 15 Apr. 1643.

iii. Grissell Jewell, b. 19 Mar. 1652; m. Joshua^{3} Fletcher, son of William^{2}.

iv. Mercy Jewell, b. 14 Apr. 1658.

By Henry Kibby in Dorchester,

v. Sherebish Kibby, b. 2 Dec. 1659.

3. FRANCIS[2] FLETCHER (Robert[1]), born probably in England about 1620, died in Concord, Middlesex County, Mass., after 1704. He married in Concord, 11 Oct. 1656, Elizabeth Wheeler, born about 1638, died there, 14 June 1704, daughter of George and Katharine (----) Wheeler, of Concord.

George Wheeler left a will which is printed in full in the Wheeler Genealogy. The compiler cannot find the original will or a copy on the Probate Books of any of the early Massachusetts Registries. As prior to 1692, many estates were filed in Middlesex County in the County Court Files, instead of the Probate Registry, it is possible that the original will was contained in the former office and taken away some years ago, the records being open to the Public. An abstract of the will as contained in the Genealogy follows:

" I George Wheeler Senir in the Town of Concord . . . I will to my two sons Thomas Wheeler & John Wheeler . . . to the Children of my son William deceased . . . to my daughter ffoxes children . . . I give to my four daughters Elizabeth Fletcher, Sarah Dudley, Ruth Hartwell and hanh Fletcher the sume of fifteen pounds apiece . . . my too sons Thomas Wheeler & John Wheeler the executors of this my Will . . ." Dated 28 Jan. 1684 and signed by mark, the witnesses being, Samuel Merism, John Scothford, and Jonathan Hubbard. Proved 2 July 1687. (Wheeler Genealogy.)

Francis Fletcher was the only child that continued to live in Concord. It is evident that he held and farmed his father's properties there, and that he was the son that cared for his parents in their old age. Only once, in 1662, are the father's lands mentioned, but the name of Francis is very often mentioned in the Concord Town Records as the land owner.

In Robert's will of 1672, he requests this son Francis "and his loving and loved Wife doe take the speciall Care of my loving Wife," and divides his estate into two equal halves, one half to go to his sons William and Samuel, and the other half to his son Francis, said son Francis to be his executor. When the estate was settled in 1677, an inventory was presented which listed no real estate, but just a personal estate of about £28, and Francis lists the disbursements paid for "his mothers and fathers berirall." (Middlesex Probate, 7913.)

It is to be assumed that between 1662 and 1666, Robert conveyed his lands to his eldest son Francis, probably in return for an agreement for life care and maintenance.

Francis Fletcher entered his lands 26 Dec. 1666, as follows:

" Dated 26 December 1666

ffrances ffletcher Imp^{s} his house Lott eight acres of upland and thre acres of medow at the south and bounded upon the south by the Mill=brooke upon the north by Nathaniel Ball upon the west by Thomas Burgas upon the East by Edward Wright

It twenty and five acres of upland in the pine plaine bounded upon the west by Nathaniel Ball; upon the East by Moses Wheat; upon the south by the way leading to M^{rs} fflints farme; and upon the north by his owne medow

It six acres of medow lying upon boath sides of the brooke in the medow ealed the bridg=medow and one acre and a halfe of upland bounded upon the west by the land of Nathaniel Ball and Cristopher Wooley; upon the North by his owne land and John Heartwell and William Taylor; and upon the South

by Samuel Traten Moses Wheat and his own land; and upon the East by the high=way into the Ox pasture

It twenty six axres of Medow in Elme brooke medow; bounded upon the South by Joshua Brooke and Caleb Brooks, upon the North by Nathanell Stow; upon the east by his owne land; and upon the west by his owne upland and Caleb Brookes his medow

It Six acres of upland upon Brick=hill iland, bounded upon the north by John ffarewell; upon the west by Caleb Brooke and the high;way; upon the South by his own medow, upon the east by his owne medow and Nathaniel Stws [Stows] medow

I^{t} foure acres of upland with a small spot of medow in brick=hill field; bounded upon the south by the highway= upon the north by Gershom Brooke; upon the east by William Heartwell; and upon the West by Captain Timothy Wheeler

I^{t} foure acres more in brick=hill field, bounded upon the south by the way to the bay; upon the west and north by Nathaniell Stow; and upon the East by Eliphalet ffox

I^{t} foure acres of upland in Crane field with one acre of second devission land adjoyning bounded upon the North by Edward Wright; upon the south by the highway; upon the East by Eliphalet ffox; and upon the west by Joshua Wheeler

I^{t} too acres of upland in Crane ffield bounded upon the East by Luke Pot-

ter; upon the west by Moses Wheat; upon the North by the Higheway, upon the South by a swampe called verginia swampe

I^{t} ten acres of medow in Elme brooke medow, bounded upon the south by Joseph Daine his medow; upon the north by Samuel Heartwell his medow; upon the East and west by Joseph Daine and Thomas Pelets upland

I^{t} foure acres of medow by the ox=pasture bounded upon the north by Moses Wheat; upon the west by Eliphalet ffox; and upon the east by Edward Wright and William Heartwel

I^{t} three quarters of an acre of upland; bounded upon the west by Cristopher Wooley upon the east by John Heartwell, upon the north by the high=way; and upon the south by his owne medow

His second Devision land imp one hundred twenty and eight acres near Chestnut swampe bounded upon the west by William Heartwell and the bay=way; upon the south west by John ffarewell; upon the southeast by the towns bound line, upon the noreast by Gershom Brooke Cap Timothie Wheler and Richard Rice

It twenty acres of upland near Elme brooke; bounded upon the south by Joshua Brooke upon the north by Nathaniel Stow; upon the east by William Taylor, and upon the west by his owne medow

It Eighteen acres near the place caled the meting house frame, bounded upon the north and west by Eliphalet ffox; upon the south by the high=way and Robert Meriams land

It Eleven acres in the Ox=pasture; bounded upon the north by Eliphalet

ffox; upon the south by John ffarewell and the mill brooke; upon the west by Samuel Straten upon the East by the ox-pasture high-way

It thirty foure acres at the lower end of Elme brooke medow, bounded upon the northeast by the towns bound line upon the southeast by Eliphalet ffox; upon the Southwest by George Meriam, upon the norwest by

His second Devission yet due forty acres."

(Schedule of Lands, p. 171, First Concord Town Book [copy].)

By the above lists we see that by 1666, Francis Fletcher owned more than three hundred and fifty acres of land in the eastern part of Concord on the road to Boston, this same road being now known as the Concord Pike.

As evidenced by his father's will, both Francis and his wife, Elizabeth, were held in high esteem by Robert Fletcher. This is of particular interest to us, as Henry Fletcher for whom this account has been compiled, is a descendant in two lines from Francis[2] Fletcher, through his sons Joseph[3] and Hezekiah[3] Fletcher.

It has been stated by various printed accounts that in 1666, Francis Fletcher owned lot seventeen in the east quarter of the town, a total of four hundred and thirty seven acres being in this lot. But the schedule has been found.

14 Dec. 1664, a petition to grant a license to Robert Meriam of Concord, to enable him to sell liquor, was signed by Francis Fletcher and other Concord men, Meriam was to displace Busse. (Wyman's Notes.) 21 Sept. 1671, a writ was served to Francis Fletcher in a suit of John, the only son of William Allen deceased. (ibid.) No further record of Francis Fletcher

in the Middlesex Files prior to 1677.

Before this, an agreement of the inhabitants of Concord as to the bounds of their lands was entered in the Concord Books, 25 Mar. 1668, among those signing was "frances ffletcher." Again, 12 Jan. 1668, a lease was signed by "frances ffletcher" and other Concord men as to Concord lands and so recorded. (Concord Town Records.)

In the Spring of 1677, Francis settled his father's estate, the account of this being found on the previous pages under Robert Fletcher. That same time, 23 May 1677, "Franc fletcher" became a freeman of the Colony of the Massachusetts Bay, and was in full communion with the church. (Massachusetts Bay Colony Records.)

From a land record entry on the Town Books, dated 6 Dec. 1681, we learn that Francis was one of the Selectmen that year. He probably held this office other years, but the records are incomplete. 31 Aug. 1694, he is mentioned as a proprietor of land in Concord. (Concord Town Records.)

There is but one mention of our Francis in the Superior Court of Judicature Records, or the Supreme Court, as it is now called, viz: 1697-98, Francis Fletcher and others were summoned by a Concord venire to serve on the Grand Jury, on an inquest on the body of Timothy Jones etc. (Supreme Court Files, 3798.)

A number of important deeds are recorded in the Middlesex Registry in his name:

4 Mar. 1683, " I Francis Fletcher in ye Town of Concord . . . For . . . Sixteen pounds . . . paid by Patrick ffasset Scotchman of . . . Billerica . . . Confirme unto him . . . Twenty Acres of Land Upland & Meadow lying

. . . in . . . Concord . . . as also Elisabeth Fletcher my wife in acknowledgment . . ." He signs, she does not, witnesses: John Scotchford, John Marian. Recorded 1696. (Middlesex Deeds, 10:479.)

20 Feb. 1693, " Francis Fletcher of . . . Concord . . . Yeoman . . . For . . . Twenty Seven pounds . .. paid . . . By Benjamin Whittemore of ye aforesaid Town . . . weaver . . . Do . . . Confirme unto him . . . A certaine parcell of Meadow within . . . Concord . . . Eight acres . . . as also Elisabeth my now married wife consenting thereunto . . ." He signs, she makes her mark, witnesses: Noah Brooks, Samuel Fletcher, Thomas Browne Senr. Recorded 1694. (ibid., 10:369.)

31 Oct. 1693, " Francis Fletcher of . . . Concord . . . Yeoman . . . For . . . Fourteen pounds . . . paid by Benjamin Whittemore . . . have . . . Confirmed unto him ye said Benjamin . .. Upland . . . within . . . Concord . . . in ye East part of ye Town . . ." He signs, Elisabeth makes her mark, witnesses: Noah Brooks, Thomas Browne Senr. Recorded 1694. (ibid., 10:370.)

3 May 1694, " Francis Fletcher of Concord . . . Yeoman . . . to Show my Tender Love unto and fartherly care of my Eldest Son Samuel Fletcher of the aforesaid Town . . . Confirm unto him . . . Several parcels of Land and meadow which are in this Instrument . . . Imprimis The house lott upon which he now dwelleth [etc.] all these . . . Scituate . . . in the East part of the Town of Concord . . ." He signs, his wife does not. Witnesses: Thomas Brown Senr, Ruth Brown Senr, Ruth Brown Junr. Recorded 1725. This deed acknowledged 1717-18.* (ibid., 25:541.)

---

* This must be an error of the Recorder's.

20 June 1694, " Francis Fletcher of . . . Concord . . . yeoman . . . to Shew my ffatherly Love To and Care of My Son Joseph ffletcher of ye Said Town . . . I having a desire to acomodate him with a Cempetency of houseing and Lands in order to his Settlement . . . Confirme unto him . . . Severall parcells of Land and Medow with the Houseing that stands upon said Lands [a very long description follows] . . ." His wife Elisabeth consents to this deed of gift, he signs the deed, she makes her mark. Witnesses: John Dudley, Eleazer Ball, Thomas Browne Senr. Acknowledged 1699, recorded in 1703. (ibid., 13:409.)

10 Dec. 1694, " ffrancis Fletcher of . . . Concord . . . In ye Consideration of the Dutyfullness of my Son John Fletcher of Concord . . . unto me and to Express my love and care that I have to him . . . Confirme unto him my Son . . . John . . . Severall parcells of Land and Medow within . . . Concord . .. in ye East part of ye Town [long description follows] also Elisabeth my now married wife . .. . of her free Consent . . ." releases her dower rights. He signs, she makes her mark. Witnesses: Thomas Jones, Thomas Browne Senr, Hannah Fletcher her mark. Acknowledged in 1708, recorded in 1715. (ibid., 17:533.)

1 Apr. 1702, " I ffrancis ffletcher of . . . Concord . .. Yeoman ffor . . . the good Will and affection that I . .. Bear unto my well beloved Son Hezekiah Fletcher of the Same Towne . . . Confirme unto him . . . A certain Messuage . . . Scituate . .. within . . . Concord . . . Containing one Dwelling house and Barn and Severall parcells of Land [description follows] . . . as also Elisabeth ffletcher my now married wife . .. consenting to this . . ." He signs, she makes her mark. Witnesses: John

1625021

Fox, John Fletcher, John Meriam Jr. Recorded 1704. (ibid., 13:598.)

By the above deeds, Francis Fletcher disposed of his property during his life-time to his eldest son Samuel, and to sons Joseph, John, and Hezekiah, in the order of their seniority. The daughters probably received their shares at the time of their respective marriages. Francis, as eldest son of Robert, received a double portion, hence had much land to dispose of when his time came, which he did by deed of gift. He left no will, and there is no further settlement of his estate, nor that of his wife's.

Children born in Concord:

i. Samuel[3], b. 6 Aug. 1657, d. there, 23 Oct. 1744; m. 15 June 1682, Elizabeth Wheeler, b. there, 24 Feb. 1664, d. there, 26 Oct. 1744, dau. of Sergt. Thomas and Sarah (Meriam) Wheeler. He was a Corporal, selectman, and town clerk in Concord. Children born in Concord (Fletcher), (1) Samuel, b. 23 Oct. 1683, d.y.; (2) Joseph, b. 26 Mar. 1686; (3) Elizabeth, b. 2 Apr. 1688; (4) Sarah, b. 19 May 1690; (5) John, b. 26 Aug. 1692; (6) Hannah, b. 1 Dec. 1694; (7) Ruth, b. 2 Mar. 1696; (8) Rebecca, b. 2 June 1699; (9) Samuel, b. 27 Apr. 1701; (10) Benjamin, b. 29 Apr. 1703; (11) Timothy, b. 28 Aug. 1704.

ii. Joseph*, b. 15 Apr. 1661, d. about 1744, prob. in Concord; m. (1), there, 17 June 1683, Mary Dudley, b. 9 Feb. 1666, Concord, d. there, 27 Apr. 1705, dau. of Francis and Sarah (Wheel-

---

* See Fletcher Lineage by W.L.H. 1928.

er) Dudley; m. (2), 20 Dec. 1705, Concord, Elizabeth Carter, who survived him. Children born in Concord (Fletcher), (1) Joseph, b. 7 June 1689, living 1729, weaver, clothier and "Jr;" (2) Benjamin, b. 1 Jan. 1690-91; (3) Samuel, b. 30 Nov. 1692; m. Abigail Hubbard; (4) Ebenezer, b. 23 Mar. 1694; (5) Mary, b. 11 Dec. 1695; [m. Thomas Hubbard?]; (6) Francis, b. 12 Nov. 1698; m. Abigail Brooks; (7) Jane, b. 29 Nov. 1700; by Elizabeth Carter, (8) Lucy, b. 22 Sept. 1706, d. 27 June 1727; (9) Abigail, b. 9 July 1708; (10) Lydia, b. 3 Nov. 1710.

iii. Elizabeth, b. 24 Aug. 1663; m. Samuel Stratton in 1683.

iv. John, b. 28 Feb. 1665; m. Hannah Hunt.

v. Sarah, b. 24 Feb. 1668; m. William Wheeler.

vi. Hezekiah*, b. 6 Apr. 1672, living 1747, Concord; m. there, 11 May 1703, Mary Wood, living in 1747, dau. of Abraham Wood of Concord and Sudbury. Children born in Concord (Fletcher), (1) Hezekiah, b. 15 Dec. 1704, lived in Rutland; m. Susanna ----; (2) Abraham, b. 20 Jan. 1706-07, lived in Mendon; m. Mary ---- and Bethiah Aldrich; (3) Mary, b. 14 Nov. 1708; (4) William, b. 15 Dec. 1710; m. Dorcas Heald; (5) Jerusha, b. 17 Jan. 1711-12; (6) Sarah, b. 22 Feb. 1714-15; (7) Rebecca, b. 18 Nov. 1717; (8) Elizabeth, b. 14 Sept. 1720; m. Lt. Ebenezer[5] Fletcher, b. 17 Mar. 1725-26, Concord, s. of Samuel[4] and Abigail (Hubbard) Fletcher (vide supra), and with him removed to Upper Ashuelot (Keene, N.H.), Rutland, and

---

* See Fletcher Lineage by W.L.H. 1928.

Holden, Mass., Newfane, Vt., and Chesterfield, N.H.

vii. Hannah, b. 24 Oct. 1674, no further record.*

viii. Benjamin, b. 1 Dec. 1677, d.s.p. 13 Apr. 1703, Concord. The inventory of the estate of Benjamin Fletcher late of Concord, who deceased 13 Apr. 1703, was presented, the administrator swearing to the truth of the same, being Hezekiah Fletcher, mention of his brother Benjamin etc., 24 Jan. 1703-04, same date, Hezekiah Fletcher, with Samuel Fletcher and Noah Brooks all of Concord, was appointed to administer to the estate of Benjamin ffletcher late of Concord deceased, Hezekiah signing by mark, Samuel signs his name. An undated petition presents that Joseph ffletcher of Concord wishes to be present when his brother Hezekiah renders his accounting of his administering to the estate of "o^{r} Brot^{r}:Benjn:ffletcher" etc. (Middlesex Probate, 7813.)

---

* C. R. Fletcher states that she married 25 Feb. 1702, Obadiah Wheeler.

4. ENSIGN WILLIAM[2] FLETCHER (Robert[1]), probably born in England, about 1622, died in Chelmsford, Middlesex County, Mass., 6 Nov. 1677, but a few months after the settlement of his father's estate. He married first, about 1643, Rachel ----, who died before 1645; when he married secondly, in Concord, 7 Nov. 1645, Lydia (----) Bates, who died his widow, in Chelmsford, 12 Oct. 1704, her birth and identity at present unknown. She was a widow when he married her, with a son, John Bates,* born in 1642, who died in Chelmsford in 1722, aged eighty, and who married in 1665, Mary Farwell.**

---

* He is the son in law [old term for step-son] mentioned in William's will, and his children are recorded in the Chelmsford Vital Records.

** Lydia (----) Bates, the second wife of Ensign William[2] Fletcher, was the widow of Edward Bates of Boston. This Edward must not be confused with the Edward of Weymouth, Mass., and was apparently not related to the Weymouth or Hingham family.

Edward Bates came to Boston, Mass., 4 Sept. 1633, on the ship "Griffin," as an apprentice to Thomas Leverett, an Alderman of Boston, co. Lincoln, England. Edward was admitted a Freeman, 9 Mar. 1637, but was later disarmed because of his being a follower of the Wheelwright party in Boston. He died between 1641 and 1645, when his widow, Lydia, whose identity is unknown, married in Concord, 7 Nov. 1645, Ensign William Fletcher.

When William Fletcher had his own children baptised 1 Feb. 1656, he also had his son John Bates baptised that same date, aged about fifteen. It has been suggested that Lydia may have been a Fairbanks, and a daughter Lydia Fairbanks was baptised in Boston, co. Lincoln, in 1622, daughter of

Richard. For further information see the Farwell Genealogy, recently published, and the Bates Bulletin, 3rd series, page 39.

Child (Bates), by Edward and Lydia (----) Bates:

i. John, bapt. 23 Jan. 1642, Boston, d. 11 Apr. 1722, ae. about 80, Chelmsford, testate; m. there, 22 Dec. 1665, Mary Farwell. His will dated 1716 gives his age then as about 74. For his children etc., see the new Farwell Genealogy.

" Willi ffletcher" was admitted a freeman of the Massachusetts Bay Colony, 10 May 1643. (New England Historical and Genealogical Register.) This is our first public record of one of the important founders of the town of Chelmsford, for here Ensign William and his younger brother Samuel settled.

The Chelmsford first book of Proprietors Records was burned in 1715, and parts of the first two books of the Town Records are missing, but the admirable history of the town, published in 1917, has been of much help to the compiler of this account. From it, we learn that the original petition for the town of Chelmsford was signed by the inhabitants of Concord and Woburn in 1652, and that among the signatures was that of William ffletcher who had made his home there. The letter of invitation to the minister, 4 Sept. 1654, already mentioned was signed by "Robt. Fletcher" and"Wm Fletcher" with two others in the name of the rest. Again, 17 May 1658, "William Fletcher" and his father, Robert, signed another Chelmsford petition that has also been mentioned in the account of Robert.

The church was organized, 13 Nov. 1655, among the founders being " Wm.

fletcher & his wife," the first town meeting was held at "William Fletchers House," 22 Nov. 1654, at which he was chosen as one of the trustees, or selectmen. The next year, 24 Mar. 1655, he served as constable of the town, and a record of the church meeting, held 11 June 1656, contains that among those present who owned the Covenant therein, was William Fletcher who had been dismissed from the church at Concord. That same year, 7 May 1656, among those who petitioned the General Court for an extension of the town, was our William, as seen by the original paper preserved in the Massachusetts Archives. There is a tradition that William had erected a frame house in Chelmsford by 1654, but to the compiler this seems rather doubtful.

We have the following record from the Massachusetts Bay Colony Records:

" uppon informacon from Majo^r Willard, by a letter from Esdras Read, Edward Spalden, Wm Fletcher &c inhabitants of a new plantacon, that the noumber of inhabitants, according to the time p'fixt in the Courts grant, were there settled as theire request, the Court doth graunt the name thereof to be called Chelmsford," 29 May 1655.

About five years later, we find considerable mention in various early sources of the extension of the town limits by Indian grants. One deed was dated 31 May 1660, being an exchange between the town and the Indians, and signed by Wm Fletcher, Tho. Hinchman and James Parker, as trustees for the Indians. (Massachusetts Bay Colony Records.)

Later the bounds were settled between Chelmsford and "Wamassett," 8 June 1665, Ensign Hinchman and "Sergeant Fletcher" being appointed by the former place to represent them in this agreement, which was signed by William Fletcher and others.

In 1659, a new road was laid out in Chelmsford, and the "house of Wm.

Fletcher" was mentioned. In a grant of land to a Samuel Adams, 12 Jan. 1660, one of the bounds cited was the "Longe meddow granted by the Towne to William fletcher."

William Fletcher served as a selectment of the old town in 1654, 1656, 1658, 1660, 1661, 1662, 1663, 1664, 1665, 1666, 1668, and 1673. In 1676, "Em William Fletcher" served in that capacity.

Wyman in his notes made on the Middlesex Court Files to 1673 gives us this information: that, 2 Nov. 1653, a Chelmsford venire cites two jurors Edward Kemp, and William Fletcher; that an undated paper, probably 1658, presents a bill of costs in a case about Fletcher's servant, who was put in the house of correction. That same year, 1658, a bill of costs of Will Fletcher of Chelmsford against Will Shaw was presented, and 11 May 1659, there was a court order about a bridge in that place, "Willi Fletcher" being mentioned. 3 Apr. 1660, William Fletcher with two others, in behalf of Chelmsford, petitioned to have Thomas Adams, Jacob Parker, and Samuel Foster, established as military officers. 14 Mar. 1660-61, William Fletcher and Jacob Parker served as jurors. 6 Dec. 1661, William Fletcher was one of the creditors of John Cromwell. (Wyman's Notes.)

In 1663, the inventory of the estate belonging to Mary Lernot, widdow, now in the hands of John Burge of Chelmsford her surviving husband, was appraised by William Fletcher, Thomas Huntsman [Hinchman] and Jacob Parker, the record as it appears in the Middlesex Miscellaneous Probate Book gives the date as 21 Mar. 1664.

10 Mar. 1667-68, a writ was served against Joshua Fletcher in a suit of Rev. John Fiske Senr for "Breaking into his House and accompanying with

his mayd servant." 18 Mar. 1667-68, Joshua Fletcher's confession of crime with Grissell Juel in Mr. Fiske's house is presented, and 7 Apr. 1668, William Fletcher was bound for the submission of his son Fletchers and said Juels submission to court. 15 Dec. 1668, the petition was presented of Joshua Fletcher and Grizell his wife in favor of leniency by the Court for them, signed by Chelmsford and Concord men, among them, "Sam[1] Fletcher" and John Burge as said Fletcher's employer. Six months later, 15 June 1669, we have the petition presented by Robert Fletcher, Joshua's grandfather, now blind, who asks for clemency. (See copy of said paper in Robert's account.) Wyman's Notes.)

8 Apr. 1668, Sergt. William Fletcher was one of the three commissioners of Chelmsford to end small causes, 20 Jan. 1671, Willyam Fletcher and others appeared in court relative to a certain highway in the town; and 2 Apr. 1672, both Sam[1] Fletcher and W[m] Fletcher are mentioned in the settlement of the estate of Robert Eames. 23 Sept. 1673, the estate of Isaac Lernet of Chelmsford was divided by Tho Henchman and Wm Fletcher who both sign this division. (ibid.)

We have already noted, that 28 Apr. 1671, the motion of William Fletcher of Chelmsford was presented that his sister Cary [Gurney or Burge] on her death bed desired him and her husband to take Charge of her children, willing to be engaged for the child Sherabiah Kibby. (ibid.) In connection with this matter of caring for his nephew, we have the record from the Mendon Town Records, 5 June 1675, as see pages twenty five and twenty six of this report, which quote the record in full.

In reference to the Robert Eames estate, the Miscellaneous Probate Book

gives as creditors of the estate of Robert Eames late "of Merrimacke neare Chelmsford," 2 Apr. 1672, "Samuell Flecher 00-05-00," "William Flecher" serving on the committee to examine the claims. In the settlement of the estate of Isaac Lornet of Chelmsford, 1673, "William ffletcher" served on the committee to divide the estate. (Middlesex Miscellaneous Probate Book.)

William Fletcher was appointed an officer, 12 Oct. 1670, "Serjant William Fletcher, of Chelmsford, is appointed ensigne to the ffoot company there." The 5 May 1676, the Indians were removed from certain sections of the Colony, some to Long Island [Boston Harbor], and the Nashoba and Natick Indians to "Patucket," among those who were empowered to make this removal was "Ensigne Fletcher." (Massachusetts Bay Colony Records.)

Only one land record is filed in Middlesex County that concerns William's own interest, viz: 4 Apr. 1671, " I willm fletcher of Chelmsford . . . husbandman for . . . a valluable sume to mee in hand payd . . . by Willm Taylor of Concord . .. confirme unto him . .. upland & meadow with Swampy low land lying in . . . Concord . . . [near the house of the grantor, bounded north by Joseph Wheeler, west by William Hartwell, east by the highway and John Heale Junr and said grantor's lands, south by a line etc.]" He signs, his wife does not appear. Acknowledged and recorded in 1671. Witnesses: Thomas Chamberline, Thomas Danforth Junr. (Middlesex Deeds, 4:187.)

Returning again to the History of Chelmsford, we note, 20 May 1673, William Fletcher served on a highway committee; petitioned 3 Sept. 1669, with two others for a right to erect a saw mill; that an Indian, Wapocositt, was a servant to William; and that in the minister's rate, of 30 May

1671. " En Will Flecher" was rated 3-1-0, which was more than any other inhabitant of the town.

In 1673, the town engaged Lt. Samuel Foster and Ensign William Fletcher to be officers of the "foot company" and to build a house for some military purpose - perhaps a look-out -, known as the Towns House on Robins Hill. In 1674, on account of trespass, Ensign Will Fletcher impounded eight swine of Abraham Parker's, four times in the one year.

1 Sept. 1674, the Chelmsford Company of the Middlesex Regiment sold powder to these Fletchers: Ens William Fletcher, Samuell Flecher, Paull Flecher, Will Flecher, Joshuah Flecher, and Sam Flecher Jun.

The petition of the "Committee of the Militia" of Chelmsford to the Governor and Council at Boston, 15 Feb. 1675, was signed by Sam Adams, Samuel Fletcher, and William Fletcher. (New Hampshire Historical Society, 3:97, also, Archives, 68:144a.)

In 1672, the minister's rate listed the property in the town, and we find: " Mr Will fflecher 3 heds 6 oxon 5 cowes of 3 yer old 4 yerlings 14 sheepe 2 swine 20 acres of land 3 horses howsing mill 14-11 1/2."

In his"Annals" Waters gives under the year 1677- "Ensign William Fletcher, one of the first grantees and a most distinguished character, died Nov. 6."

No gravestones prior to 1690 exist in Chelmsford.

We recall that the first church records of Concord are missing prior to 1738, the same sad situation is in Chelmsford, their first church records are missing prior to 1741. However there were some private records kept by Rev. John Fiske, which in 1885 were in the possession of David Pulsifer

of Boston, and which were consulted when the Chelmsford Vital Records were printed several years ago. (vide supra) From this source we learn that he baptised four of William's children as follows:

" Jos[h]ua s. W[illia]m, bp. 1-12-1656, a. abt. 12"

" Lidia, d. W[illia]m, bp. 1-12-1656, a. abt. 9"

" Samuel, s. W[illia]m, bp. 1-12-1656, a. abt. 4"

" Paule, s. W[illia]m, bp. 1-12-1656, a. abt. 2 y."

There has been much interest placed by various genealogists in an Hope Fletcher who married a Samuel Stow of Middletown, Conn. Samuel Stow was a son of John from Kent, died in 1704, aged eighty two, and was a Harvard Graduate of 1645. By Hope, he had John, born in 1650 in Charlestown, Mass., and Ichabod, Hope, Dorothy, Elizabeth, Thankful, Rachel, and Margaret, all born between 1653 and 1670, in Middletown. The record in Middletown stands: "Fletcher, Hope, [d. of William, m. Samuel Stow], [ ]" (Middletown Land Records.) The compiler does not think that she was connected with the Robert family.

18 Dec. 1677, the last will of "Willm ffletcher lately deced" was exhibited; 2 Apr. 1678, the estate of "Wm ffletcher late of Chelmsford deced" was settled. (Middlesex Miscellaneous Probate Records.)

The inventory on his estate was taken 12 Dec. 1677, by Josiah Richarson and John Wright, the heading reads: " Ensin Will^{am} ffletcher hoe departed this life ye 6 dye of November in the yr of o^{or} Lord one thousand six hondared seventy and seven," the total amount listed was £998-18-11, a large estate. A copy of the will follows:

" In the Name of God Amen I William fflecher of Chelmsford in the County

of medellsex in New england Being of perfect and sound memory blessed be god do make this my last will and Testament in manner and fforme ffoloing first I will and earnestly Desire that all my Debts that shall leagaly apeare to be dew any manner of way what so Ever bee duly and trewly paid out of my Estate with what Convenient speed that possible may bee Item I give and bequeath to Joshuah my beloved sonne a certaine parsell of upland and medow being partt of those my Accomodation given mee by the town and lying at stony brooke which said parsell of upland and medow is bounded by tanny brooke on the one side and by stony brooke on the other side and by beniamin Spaldings land on the other partt and by the Common on the other partt to have and to hold the said lands both upland and medow to him and to hies heires for ever and to Gresill his now wife during the terme of her Naturall life bee it all wais provided that my mind is that if my sonne Joshuah Shall dy with out Ishew to say Children begoten of his body that then the said land with all the housing and apurtenances thereto after the death of my sonne Joshuah and Grisil his wife shall bee sold and the produce thereof shall bee Equaly devided amongest my other Children that shall then bee living Item I give and bequeath to my sonne Joshuah that parsill of medow which is mine Caled by the Name of long Sought for for him the said Joshuah and his wife Grisill to In Joy dureing the terme of ther Naturall life or either of them which is the longest liver and in Case that Joshuah aforesaid Dye with out a Child begoten of his body then thatt medow likewise to bee soulde and the pay to bee Eaqualy Devided betweene thos of my Children then living Item I give and bequeath to my sonne Joshuah the frame of a house all redy lett out to

make with a sofitient quantity of naills to finish the same Itome I give and bequeath to my sonne Joshuah tow oxen and one Cow now in his hands att this present all which I give in ffull of all that portion I intend to give unto him Item I give unto my sonne Joshuahs wife grisill the full value of ffourty shillins to be paid by my executors with in halfe a year after my Desease Item I give unto my sonne in law John Bates* the sum of Then pounds to be paid with in one halfe year after my desease Item I give and bequeath to Samuell my beloved sonne halfe my lands att stony brook both upland and medow with the Dweling house hee now liveth in allso four Acres and a quarter of medow bee it more or les as I bought it of Jacob Parker and is boundid on Record allso I give my sonne Samuell halfe that parsill of medow that I purchased of John bates lying in tow parsills more I give unto my sonne Samuell Thirty acers of upland and medow lying in Chelmsford which is bounded on the east by a dame and a riged hill and on the North and west by the lands of solomon Reids south by Joshuah ffarwell west by the towne high way with all the housing and Apurtenances ther to belonging allso I give my sonn samuell halfe my River medow he paying out of the same to my Daughter mary ffourty pounds and to my Daughter Esmine [sic] ter ffourty pounds to be paid to them with in one full year after my -- and my wifes Desease Item I give unto my sonne paull the other halfe of my lands att stony brooke both upland and medow with all the Apurtinances ther to belonging more I give unto my sonne paull that lott of medow Caled by the name of longe sought ffor which I bought of samuell ffoster more I give my sonne paull halfe that medow I purchased of John battes lying in

---

* i.e. step-son.

tow smmall parsills more I give my sonne paull halfe my land att the saw mill with halfe my partt in the saw mill with halfe a parsill of medow Adioying to the same more I give to my sonne paull halfe my Crane medow Item I give and bequeath to my sonne William all that parsill of land that is mine lying in Chelmsford Adioyning to that before given to my sonne samuell and is bounded by my Dam and a ridge hill on the east allso I give my sonne William halfe my River medow and halfe my Crane medow allso I give unto my sonne William halfe my land at the saw mill with halfe my partt in the saw mill being still provided that my loving wife shall in Joy the benifits of my housing and lands and saw mill During her naturall life with all my moueable goods not heer Desposed of and att the end of her Naturall life she may despose of what she inioyed of my Estate unto my Children according as shee shall see meete Now^{e} I Doe hear by apoint and make my beloved wife soule Executrice to my Estate Item I give and bequeath to my Daughter lidiah the sum of five pounds as an Adition to what I formerly gave her to be paid by my executrice with in one year after my Desease ffurther my will is that my towne Rights in Comon lands shall after my wifes Desease bee Eaqualy Devided between my ffouer sonnes as wettnes my hand and seal this ffourth Day of siptember one Thousand sixe hundreth seuenty and foure the word wife in the 13 line and John battes in [----
----------] being enterlind befoer the ensealinge heer of [illegible]

sighned sealed and Diliuered "willim fflecher"

in the presence of us

Samuell Adames

Peeter Bennet

Sworn in Court by Capt Adams Decemb^{r} 18: 1677

no Inventory was produced: as attests Jonathan Remington Cl"
(Middlesex Probate, 7950.)

After William's death, there was land in Concord that he had never given deed to and 11 May 1681, we find this record: " In ans^{r} to the petition of Nathaniel Stow, of Concord, the relict & executrix of the late William Fletcher is impowered to make the peticoner a deed of sale of sajd house & lands mentioned in the peticon." (Massachusetts Bay Colony Records.)

The following deed was then entered on the Concord Town Books, there is no record in Middlesex:

20 Jan. 1681, " To all People to whome this present wrighting shall come Lidiah ffletcher of Chelmsford sendeth Greeting, whereas my Late husband William ffletcher did in the year of our Lord one thousand six hundred and fifty six sell unto Nathanaell Stow of Concord . . . a dwelling house and sever^{ll} parcells of land in ye sayd Towne which the sayd Stow hath been and is in the possession of, but not taking Legal Conveyance of sayd house and Lands in the life time of my sayd Husband . . . Know yee that I the sayd Lidia ffletcher of Chelmsford . .. for . . . one hundred and fifteen Pounds . . . Confirme unto the sayd Nathanaell . . . all that howsing and Land . . . in . . . Concord . . . (excepting . . . two Acres of medow . . . in the bridge meadow . . .) that is . . . an house and houselot fifteen Acres . . . Also fifteen Acres of upland [one of the bounds being Francis Fletcher] . . . Also two Acres . . . Also five Acres . . . Also Six Acres . . . Also five Acres . . ." She signs by mark. Witnesses: John Fiske, Samuell ffletcher sen^{r}. (Concord Town Records, p. 305.)

10 Jan. 1686, " Know yt William ffletcher Senr of Chelmsford . . . for

. . . a valuable Sum of Money to me . . . paid by John Burge of the same place . . . confirme unto the same John . .. ffour acres [in Chelmsford, bounded by said Burge and the Town Commons]." Signed by "Lydia ffletcher widow her mark" and "Samsul ffletcher." Witnesses: John Fiske, Samuel ffletcher, Thomas Read. Recorded late. (Middlesex Deeds, 14:97.)

Children:

By Rachel ----,

i. Joshua[3], b. 10 Mar. 1644, Concord, bapt. 1 Feb. 1656, Chelmsford, ae. 12; m. (1), 4 May 1668, Chelmsford, Grissell Jewell; m. (2), there, 18 July 1682, Sarah Willey.

By Lydia (----) Bates,

ii. Lydia, b. 30 Mar. 1647, Concord, bapt. 1 Feb. 1656, Chelmsford, ae. 9; m. 27 Mar. 1666, Chelmsford, John Fiske Jr.; [she m. (2), Nathaniel Hill, states C.R.Fletcher.]

iii. Sarah (Fletcher Genealogy gives a dau. Sarah, the compiler cannot find any record of her, but if there was a dau. Sarah, she was b. about 1650, and d. before 1656.

iv. Samuel*, b. in 1652, prob. in Chelmsford, bapt. 1 Feb. 1656, Chelmsford, ae. 4, d. there testate in 1723; m. (1), 5 July 1673, same, Hannah Wheeler, who d. there, 11 Dec. 1697, dau. of George Wheeler; he m. (2), 7 June 1699, in Concord, recorded in Chelmsford, Sarah (Meriam) Ball, who d. 29 Apr. 1703, Chelmsford, dau.

---

* As he has been greatly confused with his uncle Samuel[2] Fletcher the compiler gives the most important data regarding him in this account. He has also been confused with his cousin Samuel[3](Samuel[2]) Fletcher who will be found under Samuel[2]'s account.

of Josiah Meriam of Concord; he m. (2), 20 Dec. 1708, in Concord, recorded in Chelmsford, Elizabeth Proctor of Chelmsford who survived him, she was probably a widow when they were married. Children by first wife, b. in Chelmsford, (Fletcher), (1) William, b. 23 Oct. 1673; (2) Hannah, b. 30 July 1676; m. Ebenezer Wright; (3) Elizabeth, b. 6 Mar. 1678-79; m. ----- Butterfield; (4) Samuel, b. 28 Sept. 1683, d.y.; (5) Samuel, b. 5 Sept. 1684; (6) Sarah, b. 1 Feb. 1686, living unm. 1726; (7) Lydia, b. 29 May 1689; m. Pelatiah Adams; (8) Susanna [Fletcher Gen. erroneously calls her "Rosanna"], b. 17 May 1692; m. Joseph Chamberlain; (9) Isaac, b. 27 Aug. 1694. Samuel made his will, 18 Mar. 1713, proved 7 June 1726, calls himself, "Samuel fletcher s^r^" of Chelmsford, yeoman, and bequeaths to wife Elizabeth, my son Samuel, my son Samuel's sister Mary Wheeler, sister Sarah fletcher, sister Susana fletcher, my son Isaac fletcher, my daughter Hannah Wright, my daughter Elizabeth Butterfield, my daughter Lydia Adams, my son William fletcher and he to be executor; signs; wit: Jonathan Barrit, Joshua Fletcher, mark of Joseph Fletcher. 18 Dec. 1723, the widow asks that the estate be settled. 7 June 1726, appeared William Fletcher, sole executor, " and Jona Wheeler who married Mary a daughter" and Jonathan Barrit and Joshua Fletcher who proved the will. Citation to heirs, same date, mentions Jonathan Wheeler who married Mary, Ebenr Wright, Sarah Fletcher, Pelatiah Adams, Joseph Chamberlain and Isaac Fletcher. (Middle-

sex Probate, 7920.)

v. Paul, b. in 1654, bapt. 1 Feb. 1656, Chelmsford, ae. 2, living in 1677; [served in King Philip's War states C.R.Fletcher].

vi. William, b. 22 Feb. 1656, Chelmsford, d. there, 23 May 1712, testate, ae. 35-4; m. there, 19 Sept. 1677, Sarah Richardson; his estate was not settled until 1747. (Middlesex Probate.) [His son William[4], b. 1688 was Sergt. William who m. Tabitha -----, d. 27 Jan. 1741-42. vide post]

vii. Mary, b. 4 Oct. 1658, Chelmsford; m. there, 1 Oct. 1678, Thomas Parker.

viii. Esther, b. 12 Apr. 1664, Chelmsford; m. there, 11 Apr. 1681, Isaac Parker.

It seems strange that Robert did not have a recorded grandson of the name of Robert Fletcher, although the name does appear in later generations.

Addenda:

Hudson's History of Concord, tells us, what we already know from the research in the original records, that is, that William Fletcher had fifteen acres on the Bay Road in Concord, said lot running to the mill brook, and afterwards purchased and owned by Nathaniel Stow of Concord.

5. SERGEANT SAMUEL[2] FLETCHER (Robert[1]), born probably in England, in 1632, died in Chelmsford, Middlesex County, Mass., 9 Dec. 1697, aged sixty-five years. He married, first, in Chelmsford, 14 Oct. 1659, Margaret Hailstone, who died there, before 1677, daughter of William Hailstone an original propietor of Taunton, Bristol County, Mass.; he married secondly, in Chelmsford in 1677, Hannah Foster, born about 1648, who died there, 11 Aug. 1683, daughter of Samuel and Esther (Kemp) Foster of Dedham, Wenham, and Chelmsford, Mass.; he married thirdly, 3 Sept. 1684, Mary (Stow) Cotton of Concord, a widow at the time of their marriage, who survived him, and was living in Chelmsford in 1700.*

Sergeant Fletcher was considerably younger than his brothers Francis of Concord and William of Chelmsford. Various writers have confused him somewhat with his son Samuel[3] Fletcher, and his nephew Samuel[3] (William[2]) Fletcher, both of Chelmsford. Brother Francis also had a son Samuel, but this Samuel[3] (Francis[2]) remained and died in Concord.

Our first public record of him, with the exception of his marriage and the births of two of his children, is to be found in the afore-mentioned History of Chelmsford which states that he was one of the proprietors of the New Field there in 1667. Samuel's property was near that of his brother, William. Four years later, 30 May 1671, "Samuell Fletcher" was engaged to pay for the ministerial rate, 0-30-3.

Wyman notes that 2 Apr. 1672, one of the creditors of the estate of Robert Eames was Samuel Fletcher. The Middlesex Miscellaneous Probate

---

* [Mary (Stow) Cotton was the widow of John Cotton; she m. (3), 18 Nov. 1700, John Spaulding, and removed to Middletown, Conn., states G.R.Fletcher.]

Book contains a fuller mention, viz: creditor to the estate of Robert Eames late " of Merrimacke neare Chelmsford" 2 Apr. 1672, " Samuell Flecher 00-05-00." From the latter source we see that in 1673, the inventory of the estate of Isaac Lernet of Chelmsford mentions "Halfe the broken upland in New field joyning to Samuel fletchers lott," also, in 1682, a division of the estate of James Richardson mentions " allso halfe an acer of upland which was boght of Sam^{el} fflecher Senier;" and 17 Jan. 1684, among the petitioners for the settlement of the estate of Henry Gridley, they being creditors, was "Samoell flecher." (Middlesex Miscellaneous Book of Probate.)

The minister's rate of 1672, listed all the property of the inhabitants of the town, among them being "Samuell fflecher" who then had in his possession; " 1 head 2 oxon 3 Cowes 1 or 2 yer old 2 swine 1 horse 13 acers howsing." The next year, 1 Mar. 1673, "Samuel fletcher" was listed as a freeman, and was then admitted to the church.

The Chelmsford Company of the Middlesex County Regiment issued a list of those of the Company to whom powder had been sold, 1 Sept. 1674, the Fletchers on the list being: "Ens William Fletcher," "Samuell Flecher," "Paull Flecher," "Will Flecher," "Joshuah Flecher," and "Sam Flecher Jun."

According to the History of Chelmsford, a petition of the "Committee of the Militia" of Chelmsford dated 15 Feb. 1675, was presented to the Governor and Council at Boston, and was signed by Sam. Adams, Samuel Fletcher, and William Fletcher. Another letter pertaining to the same matter, and of the same date is also preserved. (New Hampshire Historical Society, 3:27; Archives, 68:144a.)

Bounties for wolves and other services were often paid by the town, and in 1689-90, among other items paid was "to Samuell flecher senor for desinsie [?] of the metinge House £8." Another item that year, "one wolfe to Sameuel flecher sen."

16 Mar. 1691-92, there were nineteen garrisons in the town, the original list being owned by the New Hampshire Historical Society, from this we note that at the west end with Joseph Farewell were Samuel and William Flechers and others, at Stoney Brook with Jno. Spauldin was Joshua Fletcher, and in another section of the town was Nathaniel Hill and with him Sergeant Samuel Fletcher Josiah Cleaveland and their familys, in all seven men.

Samuel Fletcher served the town as a selectman in 1694, in 1696 and 1697, and was one of a committee to lay out new highways.

Samuel Fletcher has but a few land records recorded in Middlesex County, brief abstracts follow:

16 Dec. 1673, " Samuel Fletcher of Chelmsford . . . For . . . a valuable summ of money . . . paid by Moses Barron of Chelmsford . . . confirme unto ye said Moses . . . parsel of meadow land . . . in Chelmsford . . . three acres . . ." His wife Margaret releases her dower rights in same. Both sign, acknowledged 5 May 1675, recorded in 1687. Witnesses: Josiah Richardson, John Fiske Junr. (Middlesex Deeds, 10:73.)

7 Apr. 1674, " Samuell fletcher of Chelmsford . . . ffor . . . a valluable sume of money . . . paid by Lieu^{t} Thomas Hinchman of the same place . . . confirme unto the s^{d} Thomas . . . parcell of land . . . within . . . Chelmsford . . . ten acres . . . upon Merrimack river [bounded by said river, Mr. Ting's farm, land of said Hinchman and Town Commons] . . ."

His wife Margaret releases her rights and they both sign. Acknowledged by both 7 May 1674, recorded 28 July 1674. Witnesses: Samuel Foster Senr, John fiskes Junr. (ibid., 5:97.)

1 Jan. 1674 [1674-75?], "Samuel ffletcher Senr of Chelmsford . . . for a valluable sume of money to him . . . pd by James Richardson of Chelmsford . . . confirme unto James . . . one parcell of land . . . in Chelmsford [bounded by trayning place, land of Mr Jno ffisks & land of Samuel ffletcher] halfe an acr^{e} . . . & Margarett his wife" also releases her rights in same. They both sign. Witnesses: Jno ffiske Junr, Jonathan Crispe. Recorded 20 May 1678. (ibid., 6:332.)

By the Wamesit Purchase of 1685, the Indians released forever their ancient holdings on the south side of the Merrimack River and west of the Concord River. This purchase was made by Jonathan Tyng Esq., of Dunstable and Major Thomas Hinchman of Chelmsford, and conveyed by them in 1686 to some fifty Chelmsford proprietors. The original deed of this last conveyance is in the possession [1917] of a descendant of one of these original proprietors. Among these original fifty proprietors we read the names of "Samuel Fletcher sen^{r}," "Joshua Fletcher," and "William Fletcher," each of whom had a fiftieth share of the entire five hundred acres of wilderness, for which Tyng and Hinchman had paid but £250. A record of these two conveyances is on file at the Middlesex Registry. (ibid., 10:19, 21.)

[The Compiler wishes to state that it is possible to do further research in regard to the wives of both Ensign William and Sergeant Samuel Fletcher of Chelmsford.]

The oldest burying ground in Chelmsford contains the following inscription:

" Here Lyes Ye Body of

Samuel Fletcher

Aged 65 years

Died December 9

1697 "

Samuel Fletcher died intestate in 1697, and there is but one paper in the settlement of his estate, and this some three years later in 1700. A copy of the original paper follows:

" This Instrument Writen this Tenth Day of June In the yeare of our Lord -- one Thousand Seven Hundred, Witneseth ~~an~~ that there is an Agrement made Between the Relict Widow of Samuell Fletcher Late of Chelmsford In the County of Midleseix: Whoe Deseased y^{e}: ninth day of Desember:1697 who Dyed Intestat: and the Sons and Daughter of Said Samuel Fletcher whi[ch] is in Manner as followeth -

Imp^{rs}: It is Agreed upone in Case of the Approbation of the Honoured Judg of the probate of Wills hereunto -

1 the Said Widow is to haue one third part of the mouable Estate of her Deseased Husband & alsoe one third parte of the Incom of the Lands and Medows as folloeth..the Two Sons: of the Deseased: tho Sons in Lawe of Said Widow are to pay to her yearly Dureing the time of her Widowhod Three pounds p^{r}: yeare: the Two Sons in Lawe to the Said Widow Are to -- ~~win~~ Winter for there Mother In Lawe Two Cowes or Cow Kine ~~in~~ Dureing the time of her Widowhood: for which Said Widow is to Alow one pound and foure Shillings p^{r} winter out of the Aforesaid Three pounds: and one pound and Sixteen Shillings In Rye and Indian Corne the Aforesaid Sons are to pay to Said widow Dure-

ing the time of her Natureal Life yearly Acording as ye Market pris Shall
be: and In Case the Aforesaid Wid^{ow} Shall Se causes to ~~Mary~~- Marie then the
Two Sons In Lawe of Said Widow are to pay out the Just Sum of Two pounds
In Indian Corne and Rye p^{r}: yeare yearly Dureing the time of -- her Nat-
ureall Life: and to be quit from wintering Said Cows - - - - - - - - - -
2 the Two Sons of Said Samuell Fletcher Namely Samuel & William -- Fletcher
haue Agred to diuid - the lands ~~as-followeth~~ and Medows belonging to Said
Estate as followeth: they Agre that Samuel the Eldest Son of the Deseased
Shall haue the Orchard belonging to the Aforesaid Estate and the Rest of
the lands and Medows with all the Towne Rightes and privileges therunto
belonging to be Deuided Equally Booth for quantity and quallity Between
the Aforesaid Two Brothers Namely Samuel and Willm Fletcher: and the Afore-
said Samuel the Eldest Son of the Deseased is to posses and Injoy all the
Houseing which Belonged to the Aforesaid Samue^{ll} -- Fletcher Deses^{d}: Ex-
cepting one Roome which the Aforesd widow is to Injoy Dureing her widow-
hood
3 the Afore said Samuel and William Fletcher are to pay to John perham the
Husband of the Daughter of Aforesd Deseased Soe much In Corne or Cattell
or other pay at mony price to make up the Sum of on and Thirty pound
With what he hath already Receiued: for her part of Dower out of her
Aforsd fathers Estate: and further the Aforesaid Samuell and willian Fletch-
er there Heires or Asignes After the Deseas of Said Widow are to pay or Alow
to the Aforesaid John perham his Heires or Asignes what Shall then Com to
their part out of what Shall then be Remaining out of Said widows Thirds - -
We whose Names are under written y^{e}: widow and Children of the Aboue Named

Samuel Fletcher Deseased; Doe Aproue of and Rest fully Satisfied with and in the Aboue written Articles & Doe Couenant promis binde and obleig our Selues and Each of our selues our Heires Excecutors Adminesterators and Asignes to stand to Abide by and perform the Same in all and Singuler the perticulers Aboue Relating to our fathers Estate. Acording as we are Either Joyntly or Souerally concerned therein In witnes where of we haue here unto Set our Hands this tenth Day of June 1700

Wittness
Sam[11]: Phipps = william fletcher ( ) Mary her M mark fflecher ( )
Thomas Browne John Parham ( )

Samuel Fletcher ( )"

(Middlesex Probate, 7917.)

Children born in Chelmsford:

By Margaret Hailstone,

? i. Sarah[3], b. 24 Aug. 1663, [so states Fletcher Gen., but no record of her birth is to be found], d. unm. before 1700.

ii. Samuel, b. 23 July 1664, d. there intestate, 24 Jan. 1705-06, ae. 40-6; m. there, 7 June 1692, Mary Cotton, b. in 1677, d. there, 30 Jan. 1705, ae. 28, prob. dau. of John Cotton. Children b. in Chelmsford (Fletcher), (1) Thomas, b. 31 May 1693, d. 3 Mar. 1698, ae. 4; (2) Mary, b. 11 Sept. 1695, living 1706; (3) Samuel, b. 1 Feb. 1698, d. 11 Feb. 1698, ae. 11 days; (4) Ebenezer, b. 16 May 1699, living 1706; (5) Thankful, b. 19 July 1701, living 1706; (6) Eleazer, b. 19 Apr. 1704, living in 1721. 17 Feb. 1706, William Fletcher with John Hill as surety,

both of Chelmsford was appointed guardian to " the Children of his Late Br^{o} Samuel Fletcher dec^{d} That is to say unto Mary Fletcher aged Eleven years & upwards, Eben^{r} Fletcher in ye 8th year of his age Thankfull fletcher in ye 5th year of her age & Eleaz^{r} Fletcher in the 3^{d} year of his age minors" He signs with a fine signature. 6 Jan. 1720-21, Joshua Fletcher of Chelmsford, husbandman, with Josiah Parker of Cambridge as surety, was appointed guardian to Eliezer Fletcher a son of the late Samuel Fletcher late Chelmsford deceased, a minor in his 17th year. Signs. (Middlesex Probate, 7919.)

iii. Hannah, b. 14 Sept. 1666, d. unm. before 1700.

iv. Lydia, b. 26 Sept. 1669; m. 27 Dec. 1692, Chelmsford, John Perham.

v. William, b. 1 Jan. 1673; m. 10 Dec. 1701, Chelmsford, Mary^{4} Fletcher, dau. of William^{3} (William^{2}, Robert^{1}) Fletcher.

Note: The History of Chelmsford mentions an old inscription to a Mrs. Sarah Fletcher, wife of Mr. Samuel Fletcher, who d. 27 Jan. 1718, aged 63. She was Sarah (Keyes) Foster, not Fletcher, states C.R.Fletcher.

MISCELLANEOUS NOTES RE CONCORD AND CHELMSFORD FLETCHERS
THIRD AND LATER GENERATIONS

In 1678, the estate of Jno Waddell late of Chelmsford deceased mentions in a list of debts due said estate and paid by the widow and administratrix to "William flecher." (Middlesex Miscellaneous Probate Book, 412.)

The first school master of Chelmsford was in 1686, when "Samuel Fletcher is appointed to be a scolle master," this same man was later town clerk, treasurer, and selectman, also 29 Aug. 1696, he is called Junr. In 1675-76, Paul Fletcher served in the King Philips War under Willard. In 1691, Joshua Fletcher was a selectman, and in 1696, Sargt Will Fletcher is mentioned. (History of Chelmsford.)

In 1689-90, in Chelmsford are mentioned: "Joshua ffletcher Sam^{ll} ffletcher and Will ffletcher." Sam^{ll} fflecher jun was a tithingman in 1679, there. During the King Philip War, at the Groton Garrison, 29 Feb. 1675-76, under Captain Wheeler were "Samuel Fletcher Senr" and "Samuel Fletcher Junr," both from Concord. At the Garrison of the Middlesex Regiment at Chelmsford, 16 Mar. 1691-92, were: "Serjeant Samuel Flechers [Samuel^{2}]," and "Samuel Flechers," " William Flechers." (New England Historical and Genealogical Register.)

At Concord, 3 Mar. 1689-90, of the non-freemen, "freeholders, whose houseing & Lands amt. to vallue of six rante Samuel fletcher." (Hudson's History of Concord.)

In a case, undated, but prior to 1700, between Benjamin Fletcher appellant and Samuel Fletcher appellee, we find for the appellant Reversion of the former Judgement and Costs of court. In a case, undated, but prior to 1700, bill of costs for the jailing of Samuel Fletcher for his rates.

no residence given in either of these cases. Undated, a record concerning land between Sam[l] Jones and Jonathan Hartwell, mentions land of Joseph Fletcher Tertius, Joseph Fletcher Ben[r], and Hezekiah Fletcher, they testify etc., Concord case prior to 1700. (Supreme Court Files, 25204, 25442, 24424.)

BRIEF FLETCHER NOTES ON WILLIAM FLETCHERS*
OF CHELMSFORD, MASS.

There were so many contemporary William Fletchers of Chelmsford and Westford and the Fletcher Genealogy was so confused in its accounts of them, that it was necessary for the compiler to make a careful search of the probate and deeds of Middlesex County in order to straighten out Lauriston Ward's correct William Fletcher. This was done very briefly but the material can be amplified later if desired.

In the second generation of the Concord Fletchers, we have Ensign William^2 Fletcher born in England about 1622, died in Chelmsford, 6 Nov. 1677, who married, first, about 1643, Rachel ----, and she dying before 1645, he married secondly, in Concord, 7 Nov. 1645, Lydia (----) Bates, who died his widow in Chelmsford, 12 Oct. 1704. (vide supra)

In the third generation we have the following Williams: William^3 (Ens. William^2) born 1656, died 1712, a brief account of whom follows; and Lt. William^3 (Samuel^2) born 1673, died 1743-44, of whom a brief account follows.

In the fourth generation we have: William^4 (Hezekiah^3, Francis^2) born 1710 and married Dorcas Heald; William^4 (Samuel^3, Ens. William^2) born 1673, died 1753, of whom a brief account follows; William^4 (William^3, Ens. William^2) born 1688, died 1741-42, of whom a brief account follows; William^4 (Lt. William^3, Samuel^2) born 1702, died 1784 Westford, who is noticed under his father's account. There were probably other Williams of the fourth generation whom the compiler has not touched upon, for she has not investigated the family of John^3 (Francis^2) born 1665 and mar-

---

* This search was made for Lauriston Ward Esq., of Brookline, Mass., by Winifred Lovering Holman.

ried Hannah Hunt; nor that of Joshua[3] (Ens. William[2]) born 1644 and married first, Grissell Jewell, and secondly, Sarah Willey.

Taking up the various Williams of the third and fourth generations that the compiler has thus far investigated:

LIEUTENANT WILLIAM[3] FLETCHER (Ens. William[2], Robert[1]) born in Chelmsford, Mass., 22 Feb. 1656, died there 28 May 1712, aged thirty-five years and four months. He married there, 19 Sept. 1677, Sarah Richardson, whose identity the compiler did not work on, she is said to have been the daughter of Capt. Josiah and Remembrance (Underwood) Richardson.

16 July 1682, recorded 1713, Joshua Fletcher, Samuel Fletcher, William Fletcher, Isaac Parker, all of Chelmsford, sell to John Fiske of same, certain land there, some ten acres, signed by Joshua Fletcher, his mark, William Fletcher, Sarah Fletcher her mark [wid. of Wm.[2]], Isaac Parker, Esther Parker her mark, Samuel Fletcher, and Hannah Fletcher her mark, wit: Samuel Fletcher Sen and Thomas Parker. (Middlesex Deeds, 16:448.)

4 Jan. 1686, William Fletcher Senr of Chelmsford sells John Burge of same small piece of land there, Lydia Fletcher widow signs this, as well as Samuel Fletcher and William Fletcher, as "the heirs Ex & assigns of said Wm. Fletcher;" recorded 1708. (ibid., 14:97.) 10 Feb. 1698, John Perham of Chelmsford sells Ensign William fflecher of same land and a dwelling house there, in which Lydia Perham releases her rights, wit: Sam[11] ffletcher, John Batts, William ffletcher. (ibid., 12:287.) In May 1704 a group of Chelmsford men sold land there to the people of Dracut, among the former were "Ensign William ffletcher . . . Samuell ffletcher . . . [and] William ffletcher" all of whom sign this deed. (ibid., 13:737.) In 1713, John Perham of Chelmsford, innkeeper, sells land there to William Fletcher of same and Lydia Perham releases, this was to Lt. William's son, William[4] Fletcher. (ibid., 17:361.) In 1708, Ens. William Fletcher of Chelmsford buys land there, recorded 1739. (ibid.,

28:331.)

Lt. Fletcher died intestate in 1712, and the estate not being settled until 1747, there are many papers dealing with the settlement. 27 June 1713, Josiah Fletcher, as the eldest son, was appointed the administrator of his father's estate. Receipts from the children are dated: 1713, William and Remembrance one of the witnesses being a Robert Fletcher; 1714, Robert and Deborah Richardson, she being a daughter; 1720, Joseph and Phebe Hildreth, she being a daughter; 1721, Nathaniel and Sarah Butterfield, she being a daughter; 1721, Stephen and Esther Pierce, she being a daughter. A paper states that the widow had deceased by 1747, and cites a warrant for distribution; the inventory of "Mr" William Fletcher late of Chelmsford deceased of what was set off to his widow is then divided among the heirs they being:

Josiah Fletcher

William Fletcher's heirs

Robert Fletcher

Ezekiel Fletcher's heirs

Daniel Fletcher's heirs

Sarah Butterfield's heirs

Lydia Spaulding

Mary Fletcher [she married 1701 William^{3} Fletcher (Samuel^{2}) as see his account.]

Esther Pierce

Remembrance Foster

Deborah Richardson

Phebe Hildreth's heirs

Rebecca Parker (Middlesex Probate.)

Ezekiel[4] Fletcher, son of Lt. William, died without issue, hence his brothers and sisters and their heirs shared in the final settlement of his estate. There are two interesting deeds at Middlesex in this connection:

April 1748, Nottingham [now Hudson, N.H.], We the subscribers to this deed agree to divide the estate of Ezekiel Fletcher late of said Nottingham deceased as follows:

Josiah Fletcher
heirs of William Fletcher [d. 1741-42]
heirs of Sarah Butterfield
Lydia Spaulding — these to have 9 nine thirteenths
Phebe Hildreth — part of the estate.
Stephen Pierce
William Fletcher [husband of Mary Fletcher, he d. 1748-44]
Remembrance Foster
Rebecca Parker

also part set off to Robert Fletcher and to Sarah Fletcher.

This entire property consisted of some 88 acres, and a homelot. Deed recorded 1758. (Middlesex Deeds, 55:275.)

Sept. 1757, We Josiah Fletcher, Mary Fletcher widow, Esther Peirce widow, Rebecca Parker widow, Joseph Moors yeoman and Esther his wife, Isaiah Spaulding, Gideon Spaulding, Henry Richardson yeoman and Priscilla his wife, Robert Bates yeoman and Lydia his wife, William Foster, Stephen

Foster yeoman, William Fletcher yeoman, William Proctor and Lucy his wife, and Thankful Fletcher spinster all of Chelmsford, with Zacheus Spaulding of Dunstable, Joseph Hildreth the 3rd of Westford, Cotton Proctor of Acton and Tabitha his wife, Thomas Bixby of Litchfield, N.H., husbandman and Phebe his wife, all convey to Benjamin Hadlock of Dunstable, the homestead of Ezekiel Fletcher late of Dunstable [this town then extended as far as Nashua] deceased, being some eighty acres. (ibid., 44:442.)

Children born in Chelmsford: (order of birth not certain)

i. Sarah[4], b. 26 May 1679; m. Nathaniel Butterfield.

ii. Lydia, b. abt. 1681; m. ---- Spaulding.

iii. Mary, b. in 1684; m. 1701, William[3] Fletcher (Samuel[2]) see under his record.

iv. Josiah, b. 8 Apr. 1687.

v. William, b. 1 Apr. 1688; m. Tabitha ----. Carried forward.

vi. Robert, b. 9 Jan. 1690-91.

viii Esther, b. abt. 1692; m. 5 Feb. 1707, Stephen Pierce.

viii. Ezekiel, b. 24 Nov. 1694, d.s.p. Nottingham.

ix. Remembrance, b. abt. 1695; m. ---- Foster.

x. Deborah, b. 18 Mar. 1699; m. Robert Richardson.

xi. Phebe, b. 24 Nov. 1700; m. int. 29 Mar. 1720, Joseph Hildreth.

xii. Rebecca, b. 29 Jan. 1702; m. ---- Parker.

xiii. Daniel, b.

SERGEANT WILLIAM[4] FLETCHER (Lt. William[3], Ens. William[2], Robert[1]) born in Chelmsford, Mass., 1 Apr. 1688, died there, 27 Jan. 1741-42, "aged fifty-two" years. He married about 1709, Tabitha ---- born about 1690, died in Chelmsford, 6 Feb. 1741-42, aged fifty one.*

As a brother of Ezekiel[4] Fletcher, his heirs shared in the said brother's estate (see deeds on pages 67 and 68 of this report).

It is very difficult in the deeds to distinguish the three Williams, but apparently this William Fletcher was called "Jr" for a period, to distinguish him from Lt. William Fletcher born January 1673 and known often as "the 2nd," and from that William Fletcher, Mr. Ward's ancestor, born October 1673, who was presumably the senior. Capt. William Fletcher Jr., of Westford, was son of Lt. William.

Presumably the 1713 deed which has already been mentioned in connection with Lt. William who died in 1712, belongs to the above William.

Sergeant William died intestate, Stephen Fletcher husbandman, with Stephen Pierce the same, both of Chelmsford, and John Cobburn of Dracut, as his sureties, was appointed the administrator, 29 Mar. 1742. The division between the children was to Stephen as eldest son, to William Fletcher a son, and to William Prockter who married Lucy Fletcher one of the daughters of said deceased, also to Tabitha and Thankful Fletcher, both daughters, this was also dated 1742. The inventory mentions the fact that his wife had also deceased. (Middlesex Probate, 7953.)

Children born in Chelmsford:

i. Lucy[5], b. 21 Feb. 1710; m. William Proctor, living 1757.

---

* Her identity has not been investigated.

ii. Stephen, b. 8 Apr. 1718, living 1757.

iii. William, b. 16 Oct. 1716, living 1757.

iv. Tabitha, b. 26 Dec. 1721; m. Cotton Proctor by 1757.

v. Thankful, b. 25 Sept. 1731; living unmarried 1757.

doubtless others who died young.

LIEUTENANT WILLIAM[3] FLETCHER (Samuel[2], Robert[1]), the "2nd" of Chelmsford, Mass., born there, 1 Jan. 1673, died there, testate, 21 Mar. 1743-44, aged seventy. He married there, 10 Dec. 1701, Mary[4] Fletcher, born there in 1684, died there, testate, 23 Feb. 1768, aged eighty four, daughter of Lt. William[3] (Ens. William[2], Robert[1]) and Sarah (Richardson) Fletcher, and sister of Ezekiel Fletcher vide supra. In her death record she is called widow of Lt. William Fletcher, and mother of Benjamin Fletcher.

This man had many land records which willlbe just noted briefly: In Jan. 1721-22, Ebenezer Fletcher of Chelmsford, husbandman, (son of Samuel Fletcher late of same, Tayler, deceased, who was son of Sam. Fletcher late of same also deceased) quitclaims for £200 to his Uncle Wm. Fletcher of Chelmsford, husbandman (2nd son of last mentioned Samuel) all his right to property of said Samuel Fletcher. (Middlesex Deeds, 23:2.)

17 Dec. 1722, Ebeneze r Fletcher of Chelmsford, husbandman sells to William Fletcher, yeoman of same, land there. (ibid., 22:152.) In 1728, Joshua Fletcher and William Fletcher the 2nd both of Chelmsford buy land at Tadmuck River; that same year William also buys of Powers. (ibid., 29:186; 27:385.) In 1722, William and his wife Mary are mentioned in the deeds. (ibid., 26:283.) 24 Mar. 1728-29, William Fletcher the 2nd of Chelmsford with wife Mary gives for love to his son Samuel lands there being full portion of his estate. They also give land to their son Benjamin in Westford, and mention as a bound land of Josiah Fletcher, 30 Aug. 1738. (Ibid., 31:468; 45:76.) 2 Mar. 1742, they give land to their son Thomas Fletcher. (ibid., 50:19.)

William Fletcher made his will 4 June 1743, as of Chelmsford, weak in body, gives to Mary his dearly beloved wife, to Beloved sons, Oliver, Thomas, Robert, to beloved daughters Mary and Lydia; to minor grandchild Jonathan, son of his son William; to minor grandchild Eleaser, son of his son Samuel, names beloved son Benjamin and he to be sole executor. Signs. Wit: Eleazer Foster, John Parker, Benjamin Adams, proved 9 Apr. 1744. (Middlesex Probate, 7955.)

The widow Mary Fletcher of Chelmsford, made her will 29 Sept. 1758, proved 14 June 1768, gives to granddaughter Olive Fletcher daughter of son William Fletcher of Westford; to son Oliver Fletcher; to two daughters, Mary, wife of Jonathan Spaulding of Chelmsford, and Lydia, wife of Joseph Adams Jr., of same; conveys to them all rights to the estate of her brother Ezekiel Fletcher late of Nottingham deceased. Son-in-law Jonathan Spaulding to be executor. Wit: Josiah, Hannah, and Ester Parker. Signs by mark. (ibid., 7886.)

Children born in Chelmsford:

1. William[4], b. 22 Sept. 1702, d. 22 Sept. 1784, as. 82, Westford; m. (1), Mary Powers; m. (2), 1731, Elizabeth Remington, have only been interested in his deeds to eliminate him; he became a Lt., and later a Capt. No record of any estate; many deeds. In 1729, Jonathan Powers of Westford blacksmith sells William Fletcher Jr., of same, land and house there near the Groton line, Elizabeth releases dower; 1734, William Fletcher Jr., of Westford quits to Ephraim Fletcher of same, all rights to land there "purchased of my father

William Fletcher of Chelmsford and Joshua Fletcher deceased father of said Ephraim" of Samuel Underwood. (Middlesex Deeds, 21:47; 35:426.) In 1734, Ephraim Fletcher of Westford sold William Fletcher Jr., of same land there. In 1735, Timothy Barron of Groton and wife Hannah alias Fletcher sold him land there and mention their honoured mother Dorothy Fletcher widow of Joshua the late father of said Hannah etc. (ibid., 36:38.) In 1747, he sells to Ephraim Blood, land, bounded by Stephen Fletcher, one of the wit: Oliver Flethher. Aug. 1761, William Fletcher of Westford, gent., conveys to his son Jonathan Fletcher, cooper, land there, wit: Caleb and Eliz. Fletcher. (ibid., 59:23; 61:102.) 14 Oct. 1761, Jacob Byam of a new Plantation called Number Six in the Co. of Worcester sells Wm. Fletcher of Westford, Gent., land in Pepperell being 19 3/4 acres, wit: Jonas Prescott and Benjamin Curnen." (ibid., 81:434.) The foregoing deed was recorded late, 1784. 17 June 1762, Susanna Fletcher of Westford, admx. of the est. of her late husband Zachariah Fletcher of Westford, yeoman, sells to William Fletcher of Westford, Gent., 1 1/2 acres in Westford, wit: Oliver Fletcher, Nathaniel Boynton. 18 June 1762, John Abbott of Westford, yeoman, quitclaims to Wm. Fletcher of Westford, Gent., 15 acres of land in Westford, bounded by part of the thirds of Susanna Fletcher and by land late of Zachariah Fletcher, wit: Oliver Fletcher, John Abbott Jr. (ibid., 60:42, 45.) 21 June 1762, Zachariah Fletcher of

Westford Husbandman, sells to Wm. Fletcher, of Westford, Gent., all his right in his father's estate (his father being Zachariah of Westford) excepting his right in his mother's thirds and including the rights of his three sisters, wit: John Abbott, Nathaniel Boynton, John Abbott, and Henry Wright Junr. (ibid., 62:46.) 9 Oct. 1765, Wm. Fletcher of Chelmsford, Gent., sells to Jonas Varnum of Pepperill, Junr. yeoman, 19 3/4 acres in Pepperell, wit: Oliver Barron, Oliver Fletcher. (ibid., 65:156.) 5 July 1771, Zechariah Fletcher of Harvard, yeoman, releases to Wm. Fletcher of Westford, Gent., his right in a piece of common land in Westford, which runs easterly on land of Timothy Fletcher, wit: Asaph Fletcher, J. Dummer Rogers. (ibid., 72:88.) Among his children were: Olive; Jonathan.

ii. Samuel, b. 26 Aug. 1706; m. Mary ---- and had Eleazer, b. 1731-32.

iii. Oliver, b. 10 Sept. 1708, living 1758.

iv. Thomas, b. 18 Jan. 1711.

v. Robert, b. 20 Apr. 1713.

vi. Benjamin, b. 22 Feb. 1715-16.

vii. Mary, b. 1 Feb. 1718-19; m. Jonathan Spaulding.

viii. Jonathan, b. 20 July 1721, died young.

ix. Lydia, b. 1 June 1724; m. Joseph Adams Jr.

WILLIAM[4] FLETCHER (Samuel[3], Rev. William[2], Robert[1]), born in Chelmsford, Mass., 23 Oct. 1673, died in Westford*, Mass., 7 Jan. 1753, aged seventy-nine years, two months. He married, intention dated 26 May 1716, at Chelmsford, Mary Foster, born in 1682, died in Chelmsford, 13 Dec. 1721, aged thirty-nine years, a connection of Moses Fosters probably, her identity has not been worked on. He married secondly, Mary -----.

This William has but few deeds. His father, Samuel Fletcher in his will dated 18 Mar. 1713, proved 7 June 1726, names his son William as executor, who served as such. This will bequeaths to wife Elizabeth; son Samuel, son Samuel's sister Mary Wheeler, his sister Sarah Fletcher, his sister Susanna Fletcher; to son Isaac Fletcher; to daughters Hannah Wright, Elizabeth Butterfield, Lydia Adams; his son William to be executor, signs. 18 Dec. 1723, the widow asks that the estate be settled etc. In 1726, appears William as executor, Jonathan Wheeler who married Mary a daughter, and Jonathan Barrit and Joshua Fletcher who proved the will. The citation was made to the heirs the same date, said heirs were: Jonathan Wheeler who married Mary, Ebenezer Wright, Sarah Fletcher, Pelatiah Adams, Joseph Chamberlain and Isaac Fletcher. (Middlesex Probate, 7920.) This Samuel had three wives, and our William was by the first wife, viz: Hannah Wheeler, daughter of George Wheeler.

In 1715, William Fletcher Senr, and Ebenezer Parker both of Chelmsford, sell to Benjamin Parker land there, Elizabeth Parker releases. 5 Jan. 1719, Moses Foster of Chelmsford for £230 conveys to William Fletcher of

---

* Westford was established from Chelmsford in 1729, this William lived in that part that was set off.

same, about 28 acres there, wife Mary releases, wit: Robert and Jonathan Richardson, and Josiah Fletcher. (Middlesex Deeds, 18:329; 20:494.)

6 Feb. 1730-31, William Fletcher senr of Westford for £35 sells Ephraim Spaulding of same meadow land there, Mary Fletcher his wife signs by mark, recorded 3 Dec. 1753, wit: Abigail Spaulding, Amos Fletcher. 18 Mar. 1740, William Fletcher of Westford, husbandman sells James Spaulding land there, wit: Edward Bates, John Wright, recorded 3 Dec. 1753. (ibid., 51:412: 411.) In 1732, Joseph Butterfield of Westford, conveyed to William Fletcher Senr of same, seven acres, wife Eunice releases. (ibid., 33: 528.)

1 July 1746, William Fletcher of Westford sells to David Fletcher of same, land there one of the witnesses being Amos Fletcher. (ibid., 45:433.)

Children born in Chelmsford:

i. Amos[5], b. 11 July 1717; m. Mary Perham.

ii. Samson, b. 13 Feb. 1719, d. 6 Mar. 1721-22, aged 2 yrs., 1 mo.

iii. Reuben, b. 2 July 1720; m. int. 4 May 1745, Westford, Susannah Chandler.

[The Genealogy gives a son Jonathan b. 20 July 1721, but this Jonathan was son of Lt. William (Samuel[2]) Fletcher, see p. 74.]

CAPTAIN AMOS[5] FLETCHER (William[4], Samuel[3], Ens. William[2], Robert[1]), born in Chelmsford, Mass., in that part that in 1729 became Westford, 11 July 1717, died in Westford, 27 Mar. 1798, aged eighty years. He married there, 8 Sept. 1741, Mary Perham, who died there, 9 June 1818 (?), [her identity has not been worked on yet, there seems to be no clue in her husband's land records, and the Perham estates at Middlesex give no help, this search may be taken up later.]

It is well known by the family that Lucy Fletcher who became the wife of John Spaulding in 1786 was the daughter of Captain Amos Fletcher of Westford.

He has very few deeds, and there is no settlement of his estate, nor that of his wife's in Middlesex County. We have seen that he acted as a witness to two of his father's deeds. Doubtless he and his brother succeeded to his father's lands.

7 Mar. 1761, William Bowen of Westford sells to Amos Fletcher of same two acres there; later Amos bought four acres more in May 1761. (Middlesex Deeds, 59:18.)

[In 1786, Reuben Fletcher of Westford [brother of Amos[5]] sold to Amos Fletcher Jr., land there, Susannah released her dower, wit: William and Lucy Fletcher. (ibid., 134:293.) Recorded 1795. In 1794, Amos Jr., bought land there of Nehemiah Fletcher, one of the witnesses was Jonas Heald, Molly Fletcher released her rights in this deed. (ibid., 116:285.) By 1809, Amos Jr., had evidently removed to Brookline, Hillsboro Co., N.H., when he sued Rebecca the widow of Abiel Fletcher. (ibid., 187:526.)

Returning to Amos Fletcher Sr., we note that 12 Apr. 1794, he gave his

son Amos Jr., 90 acres in Westford with buildings thereon it being the farm that he the said Amos Sr., lived on for £400, bounded by Willard Fletcher, Nehemiah Fletcher, and one Butterfield, also other lands there. (ibid., 110:286.) In 1795, he sold land there to Samuel Richarison and mentions his son Nehemiah Fletcher. (ibid., 118:103.)

18 Apr. 1795, Amos Fletcher of Westford gentleman sold land there to Zacheus Read, and same date he also sold land there bounded by son Nehemiah Fletcher to Benjamin Osgood of same Esq. (ibid., 134:353; 132:45.)

Children born in Westford:

i. Amos[6] Jr., b. 25 June 1755; m. 1776, Rebecca Prescott. He apparently removed to Brookline, N.H.

ii. Mary, b. 21 Mar. 1757; [m. Henry Spaulding, states the Fletcher Genealogy.]

iii. Nehemiah, b. 27 Mar. 1758; m. 1779, Mary Welch; [removed to Me., states the Fletcher Genealogy.]

iv. Lucy, b. 31 Aug. 1761, d. 20 Mar. 1802, ae. 40, Chelmsford; m. 26 Jan. 1783, Westford, John Spaulding 3rd, b. 8 June 1762, Chelmsford, d. there, 13 Sept. 1835, ae. 73, son of John and Hannah (Spaulding) Spaulding. He served in the Revolutionary War. Their son, Benjamin, by wife Sarah Warren, had daughter Ellen-Mary Spaulding who married Langdon-Storer Ward, who were the grandpapents of Lauriston Ward Esq., of Brookline, Mass.

3194